

Gulf states easing boycott of Israel, U.S. envoy reports

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Wealthy Gulf Arab states have started to ease a long-standing economic boycott against Israel but Washington will continue to press for a total removal of the ban, a senior U.S. official said.

Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Robert Pelletreau said the United States had told its allies in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) that the boycott was against their interests.

Addressing U.S. businessmen in Abu Dhabi on Sunday night, he said Kuwait had lifted the indirect boycott which covers companies dealing with Israel following pleas by the United States, which played a crucial role in liberating the emirates from seven months of Iraqi occupation in early 1991.

"Other GCC governments have taken steps to weaken their enforcement of these aspects of the boycott, enabling firms in sectors like consumer goods to market their products in both Israel and parts of the Arab World," he said in comments obtained on Monday.

"But our goal remains a complete end to the boycott. Therefore, we will continue our vigorous efforts to persuade boycotting governments to end this obsolete practice."

Mr. Pelletreau, on a tour of the region, did not identify GCC members which have eased the boycott but Gulf official sources mentioned Saudi Arabia and Bahrain. The other members are Qatar, Kuwait, Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

GCC states have ruled out lifting the direct ban separately from the Arab League, which says such a move hinges on Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories and dismantling of settlements.

The 22-member league imposed the economic ban a few years after Israel was created in 1948 to force it to cede occupied land. Israel has said the ban has cost it nearly \$50 billion while heavy losses were sustained by U.S. and other international companies dealing with the Jewish state.

Faction leader arrested by ally in north Afghanistan

KABUL (AFP) — The Islamic military commander of Pul-e-Khumri city, which is under siege by forces loyal to Afghan President Burhamuddin Rabbani, has been arrested by his Uzbek allies, defence ministry sources said.

The claim could not be independently confirmed. The sources said Sayyad Jaffer Naderi, leader of the Islamic religious sect's army and the governor of Pul-e-Khumri, some 220 kilometres north of Kabul, reportedly objected to the undisciplined behaviour of his Uzbek allies — allegedly including the looting of his own home.

Mr. Jaffer had demanded that his Uzbek ally, ex-communist General Abdul Rashid Dostum, withdraw his men from the city, "saying the Islamists would defend Pul-e-Khumri alone," a ministry official said.

An offensive is expected soon, which if successful would nearly complete the circle of siege around Pul-e-Khumri.

Gen. Dostum had come to the relief of Pul-e-Khumri, which sits at a strategic crossroads, after the city was subjected to a siege by pro-

Rabbani forces in early April. The Defence Ministry official said Pul-e-Khumri was now completely under the control of Gen. Dostum's forces, adding that Mr. Jaffer had been removed to another town, Mazar-e-Sharif.

Mr. Jaffer's arrest followed the loss of the key town of Baghlan, 20 kilometres north of Pul-e-Khumri, to pro-Rabbani forces on Saturday.

Gen. Dostum, once allied with Mr. Rabbani, followed an unsuccessful attempt to topple the president in January with an attack against Kunduz town, north of Pul-e-Khumri, in early March. Later, with Mr. Jaffer's help, he attacked Nahrin to the east.

By capturing Pul-e-Khumri, Mr. Rabbani's former defence minister, Ahmad Shah Masoud, would secure the whole of northeast Afghanistan and open the way to strike west into Gen. Gostum's Uzbek heartland of Jawzjan and Fariab provinces.

Pressure on Pul-e-Khumri includes air strikes by Mr. Masoud's jets, the last confirmed attack having taken place Friday.

N. Yemenis confront formidable southern terrain

ABU DHABI (R) — Northern armies outnumber their southern rivals in the Yemeni war but face formidable terrain in their attempted advance on the southern stronghold of Aden.

"My own impression is that it will be a very difficult war for either side because of the nature of the routes between north and south," said Colonel Andrew Duncan, of the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies.

Other military experts put northern forces at about 40,000 and southern forces at half that number.

"There's a great plain in the northmost part of Aden. You've got to have a large force to block," an advancing northern force across a plain, he said in a telephone interview.

"I think I would find it very difficult, but the other people (northerners) wouldn't come down in enormous strength anyway."

Col. Duncan said southern resistance would likely be deployed at the hills, where the South Yemeni army could make the best use of its numbers by holding off advances in narrow valleys of hills about 16 kilometres to 30 kilometres from Aden city.

Some of the latest fighting has been in Lahaj province for control of the main road from the north that runs down a strategic valley leading to Aden, and around Lawdar, a northern-controlled airbase in the south 150 kilometres north-east of Aden.

"Even if their army takes Aden they can't claim they control the south. You don't know what influence they would have over the tribes and the rugged terrain," Col. Duncan said.

According to IISS, the North Yemeni army had 37,000 troops and South Yemen's army had 24,000 before the merger of the two halves which created a united Yemen in 1990.

The IISS today puts the combined strength of united Yemen's navy, army and air force at 64,500 with reserves of about 75,000.

By far the majority of personnel — 60,000 — are in the army, the institute says. But the two armies were never fully integrated in practice after the merger although some northern units were stationed in the south and southern units sent north.

Now they are battling each other as rivals, with the army loyal to northern President Ali Abdullah Saleh claiming it was advancing on the basis of Mr. Saleh's bitter rival, southern leader Ali Salem Al Beidh, who is also vice president.

Southerners deny the claim and say the northerners have been crushed and are running "like scared cats."

The north has about 40,000 army reservists. It can call upon up to 100,000 tribal levies.

The south has about 45,000 reservists, who were mobilised on Saturday to help defend Aden. It can also call upon thousands of militiamen trained by the Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) which ruled the south until the 1990 merger.

In addition, the IISS says, Mr. Beidh can call on southern tribal levies numbering about 20,000.

"One wonders just how easy it will be to keep the (northern) forces supplied with ammunition and petrol. I think most of the (supply) assets are concentrated in the south. The routes are rugged," Col. Duncan said.



EVACUATED: Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor on Tuesday receive Jordanians evacuated from Yemen (Petra photo)

Evacuated Jordanians arrive from Yemen

(Continued from page 1)

Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh and his feuding Vice-President Ali Salem Al Beidh to ensure the safety of the evacuation process, reports said.

Aden Radio reported Saturday that Mr. Beidh had contacted the King saying the southern leadership was ready for a political dialogue to end the strife. There was no official

confirmation here of the report.

However, comments by President Saleh after the political crisis turned into civil war indicated that the northern leader was in no mood to accept mediation from any quarter, in what was seen by observers here as confidence that his army was better placed to win the battle.

Upon the King's instructions, the government also sent medical aid to Yemen to help treat the wounded.

Youssef Oussous, director of the Royal Medical Services, told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the Al Hussein Medical Centre received 11 wounded Yemenis last week. Three of them have been discharged and the others remain under treatment, he said.

Yemeni strife may be stalemate

(Continued from page 1)

attack on Aden in fierce battles.

Gunboats belonging to the southern command were reported pounding northern troops on the coast east of Aden.

Southern warplanes were strafing the former border region, the sources added.

The sources, which are in contact with northern brigades in the south, have proved reliable in the past. One of them said Monday that the push against Aden could develop into a protracted war of attrition, dismissing reports from Sanaa that the fall of the city was imminent.

The sources' accounts were at odds with communiques released by the northern command, but jibed with southern reports.

Aden Radio quoted a southern officer as saying the northern claims were "a desperate attempt to mislead domestic and international public opinion and cover up their defeat."

The officer, identified as Colonel Hussein Qahtan, security chief in Lahaj, told the radio that northern forces have

been shelling the region, but have not been able to break through southern defences there. The area is about 40 kilometres north of Aden.

Aden Radio claimed Sudanese troops were fighting alongside the north and that several of them had been captured. It said Sudan and North Yemen had arranged an airlift of Sudanese forces to Hodeida, a northern city on the Red Sea.

The Sudanese government said reports that Sudanese soldiers are fighting alongside northern forces in the Yemeni civil war are "totally untrue and unfounded."

Omer Baridou, first secretary of the Sudanese Foreign Ministry, told the Associated Press in Khartoum that such assertions could be aimed at obtaining foreign support for the southerners.

Aden Radio specified Muslim fundamentalist Sudan as an example of Arab countries with forces fighting for the north.

"Such reports are totally untrue and unfounded, totally baseless," Mr. Baridou said. "The propagation of such allegations might just aim at widening the scope of the war

as a pretext for foreign intervention in the conflict," he added.

He said Sudan's only interest in the war is "our keenness to solve this problem in the context of the unified Yemen and away from any foreign interference."

A southern Yemeni statement denounced as a theatrical farce Mr. Saleh's dismissal of Mr. Attas, a former president of the south, and said it violated the constitution as it had not been ratified by parliament.

Confidence in the prime minister could only be withdrawn by parliament and ministers could not be dismissed without the prime minister's agreement, he said.

"It was a decision he will not be permitted to achieve because unity is the will of the people, and they will defend it to the last breath of life," it said.

Foreign governments from Asia to Europe scrambled to evacuate nationals by air and sea. Two hundred people, including oil workers, French tourists and a badly wounded southern soldier ferried by the French warship Le Var arrived in Djibouti on Monday night.

Yemen's Saleh is tough survivor in harsh world

SANAA (R) — Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, said to have survived 100 assassination attempts, is trying to impose his will on southern leaders who made him president of all Yemen but were now defying his authority.

The former army colonel became president of united Yemen in 1990 after leading North Yemen for 13 years following the assassination of his predecessor.

Born in 1942 into a tribe living near Sanaa, he received only limited education before taking up a military career, beginning as a non-commissioned officer and rising through the ranks.

He first achieved prominence after President Ibrahim Ali Hamadi, another former army colonel, was assassinated in October 1977.

The new president, Colonel Ahmad Al Ghashmi, who came from the same Hashed tribe as Mr. Saleh,

appointed him military governor of Taiz, North Yemen's second city — a post he occupied until Ghashmi was killed in June 1978.

Just who was responsible for the killing was never clear. Ghashmi was killed by a bomb in an attack carried by a South Yemeni envoy and the presidential council set up in the wake of his death accused Marxist South Yemen of involvement.

Opponents of South Yemeni President Saleh Rubaye Ali blamed Ali and a bloody coup followed in Aden after which the deposed president was executed by firing squad.

In Sanaa, Mr. Saleh was appointed to a four-man presidential council set up after Ghashmi's death. The following month Mr. Saleh was selected to replace Ghashmi and was sworn in on July 18, 1978.

In his first public speech,

Mr. Saleh pledged to preserve the country's revolutionary goals and to exert every effort to reunify the two Yemens — a goal achieved four years ago.

His early months in power were marked by a resolutely pro-Saudi Arabian line and his harsh response to any threat to his position. His relations with Saudi Arabia collapsed after he showed sympathy for Iraq following its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

In August 1978 he ordered the execution of 30 officers he said had planned a coup, including a former member of the presidential council who fled to South Yemen.

Many others also fled to the south but seven officers were executed in October.

In September 1978, Mr. Saleh survived an assassination bid, and the following month foiled a coup attempt by senior military officers.

War shatters Yemeni dreams of prosperity

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Yemeni dreams of a better life after union four years ago quickly evaporated as economic problems piled up, and have finally been shattered by civil war.

Hopes rose in one of the world's poorest countries when more oil started to flow and leaders pledged to use the wealth to finance development and improve living standards.

Yemenis, whose poverty was in sharp contrast with the wealth of the super-rich Gulf states at their doorsteps, waited impatiently for unity to pay off.

But the economy was struck a serious blow only a few months after the May 1990 union when Saudi Arabia expelled hundreds of thousands of Yemeni workers in retaliation for Sanaa's sympathy with Iraq after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

"The flood of Yemenis from Saudi Arabia and support for Iraq was the first blow against unity," of the former North and South Yemen, a Gulf-based Western diplomat said.

"Their return came at a time when Yemeni leaders were promising their people economic prosperity and solutions to unemployment and other economic problems."

"They had constituted a major source of hard currency to their country, but became a burden on the domestic economy. Another heavy price was that Yemen was deprived of promised Gulf aid and investment."

Saudi Arabia and its partners in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), which had extended more than \$10 billion in aid to the Yemens before the merger, pledged to step up assistance and investment after unity in the hope that it would ensure economic and social stability in the Red Sea country and neutralise internal forces opposed to the Gulf monarchies.

But after the invasion of Kuwait in August 1990 and Yemen's perceived support for Iraq, Gulf aid was completely cut off. Economic reforms launched with the merger started to slow with the absence of funds from the region and main Western donors angered by Yemen's attitude.

The economy deteriorated despite a sharp rise in oil output, poisoning the political atmosphere.

Hundreds of people were assassinated and several foreigners working at oil facilities were kidnapped by tribesmen.

Arms became widespread and people grew steadily more disenchanted with unification. "Such developments only added fuel to Yemen's estrangement. They scared away potential investors, which could have been of tremendous benefit to the economy in the presence of reforms," a diplomat said.

The crisis has finally boiled over into a civil war between the northern forces of President Ali Abdullah Saleh and his southern rival, Vice-President Ali Salem Al Beidh.

"It is a severe blow to Yemeni dreams of a better life if not a final blow," an Arab diplomat said. "No one now knows the turn of the events but the war will naturally make economic prosperity a remote possibility."

Per capita income is still among the lowest in the world, compared with that in wealthy neighbouring Gulf monarchies.

Foreign debt has swollen, unemployment and inflation exacerbated and deficits are persistently biting into the budget, trade balance and the current account.

From a surplus in 1990, the balance of payments suffered from a deficit of \$164 million in 1992, the actual budget shortfall widened to \$1.02 billion from \$573 million the debt nearly doubled to \$6.5 billion from \$3.8 billion in 1985 and foreign reserves declined to \$405 million in 1992 from \$677 million in 1991.

The gross domestic product recorded negative growth in real terms of 2.5 per cent and 3.9 per cent in 1992 and 1993 and inflation ran at 35 and 21.5 per cent, one of the highest in the Arab World.

Only the oil sector improved as major discoveries pushed reserves to nearly four billion barrels (bpd). Output is estimated at between 320,000-340,000 barrels per day and officials have expected it to exceed 400,000 bpd at the end of 1994 and 700,000 bpd in the next few years.

The rise has pushed revenues to nearly \$3.8 billion in 1992 from \$1.2 billion in 1986. But oil, which was supposed to make Yemenis stick more to unity, seems to have backfired.

"Oil is widely believed to be one of the main causes of the crisis. The large rise in production and promising hydrocarbon findings in the south have apparently whetted the appetite of each side to exploit them," a Western diplomat said.

Mr. Saleh held on to power only with the backing of fervently anti-communist Saudi Arabia, which also footed the bill for new arms supplies from the United States.

Realising the weakness of his position, however, Mr. Saleh began a move away from Sanaa and initiated secret talks with domestic opposition groups, as well as rapprochement with South Yemen.

The two countries merged in May 1990 after many years of negotiations.

It was a marriage of convenience that made Mr. Saleh president of both halves of Yemen. Aden saw the union as its way out of isolation after its ally the Soviet Union began to collapse, and its communist friends across East Europe lost power.

The two also hoped to join efforts to exploit promising oil finds that could help them escape poverty.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
17:30 Ordy
18:00 N.B.A. sport
19:00 News in French
19:15 Le Journal De L'Histoire
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Great Moments in Science & Technology

20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Too Close for Comfort
21:00 The Best of Miami
21:30 The World of The Thirties
22:00 News in English
22:30 Polka
23:10 Music Show — Paul McCartney

PRAYER TIMES
04:48 Fajr
05:37 (Sunrise) Duha
12:32 Dhur
16:12 'Asr
19:26 Maghrib
20:53 'Isha

CHURCHES
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifish, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 62541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 77261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 652526
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 62439

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 644932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER
Bullfinch supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Khamasin weather conditions will prevail. It will be hot, dry, and dusty with clouds appearing at different altitudes and winds southeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be southerly moderate and sea rough.

Min./Max. temp. Amman 12/31

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDER

Aqaba 18/36
Deserts 10/32
Jordan Valley 15/35

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 28, Aqaba 33. Humidity readings: Amman 12 per cent, Aqaba 25 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Nidal As'ad 751672
Dr. Isam Al Asmar 890504
Dr. Sa'ad Al 782285
Dr. Riza Abu Zeinab 649493
Shreiciat pharmacy 661912
Perdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asema pharmacy 637055
Nairoki pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 649493
Shreiciat pharmacy 657669
Nairoki pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632

BRIDJ:
Dr. Ahmad Qanu (—)
Al Quds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:
Dr. Fawaz Hamdallah 903644
Khalil pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES
Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 75121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 89390
Public Security Department 63021
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 121
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 102300
Overseas Calls 623101
Repairs 623101
Abdah Telephone Repairs 661101
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 68190
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

HOSPITALS
AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 644281/6
Akhil Maternity, J. Amn. 64241/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeicani 664171/4
Shmeicani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Muasher Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/31
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Mutajreem 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Army, Shmarka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900540
Jbn Sina Hospital (09)966732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)909990
IBRID:
Princess Beama Hospital (02)75553
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)7275
The Al Nafes Hospital (02)247100

Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
09:00 London (RJ)
09:30 Aqaba (RJ)
09:30 Jeddah (RJ)
09:55 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:15 Istanbul (RJ)
10:40 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
10:40 Frankfurt (RJ)
10:40 Cairo (RJ)
10:40 Riyadh (RJ)
10:40 New Delhi (RJ)
10:40 Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
10:40 Paris (RJ)
10:40 Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
10:40 London, Vienna (RJ)
10:40 Brussels, Amsterdam (RJ)
10:40 Rome (RJ)
10:40 Toronto, Montreal (RJ)
10:40 Aqaba, Cairo (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
10:35 Cairo (MS)
11:10 Damascus (AZ)
11:25 Larnaca (CY)

DEPARTURES
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10:40 Aqaba, Cairo (RJ)

Home News

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 1994 3

Seminar urges Jordanians to consider family planning

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Society for Family Planning and Protection Tuesday issued a call for the practice of family planning methods to ensure safe motherhood and a healthy family life.

Addressing a seminar held at the University of Jordan to discuss family planning, society president Buthaina Jandaneh said that there was a need for family planning in a manner that conforms to religious beliefs and at the same time falls in line with the family's health, financial and living conditions.

Echoing this concept, University Vice President, Mohammad Maqousi said developments in modern life and pressing needs make it imperative that Jordanians re-examine their attitudes towards the size of their families and seriously consider family planning methods.

The seminar, which was sponsored by the university's Nursing Faculty, reviewed population growth in Jordan and discussed the adverse effects on the entire community resulting from random growth and high birth rates.

The speakers pointed to the limited natural resources in Jordan and the difficulty in providing all types of health, educational and other services to the ever-growing population.

The participants to the meeting, which was entitled "Islam and Family Planning," stressed the need for intensifying public awareness programmes through the media to educate the public on family planning methods, population issues and breast-feeding to safeguard the health of mothers and children.

Shipping agents review prospects after lifting of Aqaba blockade

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Representatives of six European shipping agents for the Jordan National Shipping Lines (JNSL) company Tuesday opened a meeting in Amman to study the prospects of increased trade after the lifting of U.S.-led blockade of Aqaba-bound vessels, according to Yasser Tell, general manager of the national company.

The eight participants to the two-day meeting are optimistic that the interception of vessels will be terminated and they are here to assess the expected changes, their impact on trade and also evaluate plans for further boosting northern Europe-Aqaba maritime shipping operations, Mr. Tell told the Jordan Times.

The inspection of Aqaba-bound vessels, imposed by the U.N. as part of its sanctions against Iraq, required all vessels, including European and JNSL ships to leave at least 30 per cent of their cargo space vacant to allow for the free movement of the inspection teams, Mr. Tell said.

But with the lifting of these inspections on the high seas, the shipping agents say they expect to ensure additional cargo on board the vessels, added Mr. Tell.

The agents, from the United Kingdom, Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain and Italy, work closely with the JNSL, booking cargo for the company in Europe and facilitating its vessels transportation operations, according to Mr. Tell.

The company, which currently owns four vessels, operates on a limited scale with Europe and carries out

large scale shipping of phosphates to Asian nations, mainly Indian, said Mr. Tell.

In 1993, Mr. Tell said, JNSL earned nearly JD 1.5 million in net profits.

At the opening meeting Tuesday, the European agents discussed prospects for increasing the JNSL share in maritime transport to ports in the Red Sea and Europe, according to Mr. Tell.

Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali last week said that no Jordan-bound ship was intercepted after the April 25 meeting between His Majesty King Hussein and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in London.

Mr. Tell said that the European agents meeting in Amman are optimistic that the interception and inspection of ships would end very soon.

Representatives of European shipping agencies and the Jordan National Shipping Lines Monday review maritime trade prospects (Petra photo)



MEETING VOLUNTEERS: Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Tuesday meets at Mutta University with representatives of voluntary societies and organisations from Karak, Tafleh and Ma'an governorates. Princess Basma, who later inaugurated an exhibition of products by social services centres affiliated to the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF), urged these

Ad hoc group rejects normalisation with Israel

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A group of 72 individuals comprising representatives of eight Jordanian political parties, professional associations, unions and popular organisations and other citizens Tuesday issued a statement urging the Jordanian people to reject moves aimed at normalising relations with Israel.

The statement, circulated to the local media said that the group:

1. Strongly rejects all agreements designed to subjugate the Arabs to the normalisation process with the "Zionist enemy," and considers such

agreements as non-binding to the Jordanian people, and calls for their annulment.

2. Will exert all possible efforts to ensure popular expression of rejection of subjugation to and normalisation with Israel.
3. Calls on the Jordanian people everywhere to participate in any form of expressing individually or collectively their total rejection and opposition to moves aimed at normalisation with Israel at the political, economic and cultural levels.

The statement, issued by the group naming itself the Popular Arab-Jordanian Committee for Opposing Subjugation and Normalisation, stressed that

the call was made with the purpose of and in a bid to rally support for the inalienable rights of the people of Palestine, protect the holy sites of Arabs and Muslims, and ensure Arab rights to living freely and in security in their own homeland.

Rejection of normalisation with the enemy, said the statement, is a demonstration of the Jordanian people's solidarity with the Palestinian people who are struggling for their freedom and in support of the heroic and continuous intifada and also to safeguard the freedom, security and sovereignty, future and national unity of the Jordanian people.

Denouncing what it termed

the ongoing negotiations with the "Zionist-American enemy" would open the way for a Zionist imperialist Middle East order substituting the united Arab order.

Referring to the Cairo accord signed by Palestinian and Israeli leaders last Thursday, the statement said that with the conclusion of this agreement the process of normalisation had begun and damages to the Arab interests are now felt.

Such agreement, it added, was a clear demonstration of non-commitment on the part of the signatories to the attainment of a just, durable and comprehensive peace in the region.

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18 people injured in bus accident in Al Koura

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Eighteen people were injured in a bus accident Tuesday in Al Koura area in the northern governorate of Irbid, a Civil Defence Department (CDD) official said.

According to the official, the public transportation vehicle which was driving on the Quora-Irbid Road lost control and slid into a valley.

No one was killed in the accident, the official told the Jordan Times.

All casualties were taken to Princess Basma Hospital in Irbid. An official at the hospital told the Jordan Times that

all the victims suffered minor injuries and are expected to be released from hospital today.

Man escapes carfire

A 26-year-old man escaped with minor burns Monday from a gasoline fire, a CDD report said.

According to the report, Youssef Mahmoud was filling his car with gas from a plastic container near Al Qatranah area on the Desert Highway while smoking a cigarette. The cigarette fell on the volatile liquid igniting a fire which spread quickly and completely burned his car.

Mr. Mahmoud suffered

minor burns to his right arm and left foot, the report said. A CDD official told the Jordan Times that losses could have been minimised if the driver had a fire extinguisher in his car.

The official urged all motorists to keep a fire extinguisher in their vehicles, especially if they are travelling long distances and in desert areas, and to make sure they know how to use the fire extinguisher.

"In most fire accidents we have been called out to, people who had fire extinguishers were unable to use them because they did not know how to use them," he said.

In the past two weeks, the CDD responded to 12 vehicle fire incidents, most of them resulting from short circuits.

Meanwhile, five people were injured Monday in a fire that burned down a restaurant in Aqaba, a police report said.

The blaze started when gas leaking from a gas cylinder connected to a lit stove caught fire, the report said.

"Apparently the gas cylinder was not tied firmly or had bends in it which caused the gas leakage," a CDD official told the Jordan Times.

The five men, aged 20-30, were saved by a CDD rescue team and were listed in good to fair condition.

Minister sees tourism as Jordan's 'oil'

By Natasha Bukhari
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A developed tourism industry could and should become the country's main source of hard currency, according to Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Mohammad Adwan.

Speaking to the Jordan Times recently about plans to boost the tourism sector, including a public awareness blitz, Dr. Adwan said, "Tourism is our oil, and with proper vision and planning, Jordan can meet the present and future challenges of this industry."

First, said the minister, "we want to educate our citizens on the importance of tourism," and one plan is to introduce tourism as a subject in school curricula starting with the elementary level.

Secondly, said Dr. Adwan, the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities is sponsoring a media campaign aimed at developing citizen's tourism appreciation in order to focus on how to accommodate tourists and provide them with the best services during their stay in the country.

Here, the minister stressed the need for Jordanians to acknowledge their guests' different traditions in a way that would maintain the balance of the host-guest relationship "based on mutual respect."

In coordination with Jordan Television (JTV), the ministry is also organising a 15-part series on tourism in Jordan in which the importance of cleanliness would be emphasised, Dr. Adwan said.

"Cleaning up the environment is vital for ensuring a healthy atmosphere for both Jordanians and tourists alike," he added.

On ideas for particular site development, he said that a committee has been formed to introduce plans for the development of the Dead Sea area and the south shore of Aqaba, which, the minister added, "should be available for the private sector to invest in the near future."

"We have to encourage the private sector to invest in tourist facilities at the Dead Sea," said the minister, adding that there should be more emphasis in facilities other than hotels such as



Mohammad Adwan

medical and transportation facilities." Such services are scarce in the tourism industry despite the abundance of hotels in the country, which are more than half vacant," Dr. Adwan explained.

Outside assistance has also been offered to help promote Jordan as an "open museum."

In a recent meeting with French Ambassador to Jordan Bernard Bajolet the envoy offered Dr. Adwan a list of suggestions by the French government to invest in ex-

cavations in the country's tourist sites.

Among the suggestions were tour guide training courses to be conducted by French experts in cooperation with the ministry, organising of exhibitions of the Kingdom's antiquities in Paris and providing higher education scholarships to students of the Institute of Archaeology at Yarmouk University.

Mr. Bajolet told Dr. Adwan that the Louvre Museum in Paris was prepared to subsidise restoration work on tourist sites such as Jerash and Petra in exchange for the display of Jordan antiquities at the famous French museum.

In conclusion the minister stressed the urgency of the private sector's investing in the tourism industry, saying that the government's current financial situation does not allow for large investments in tourism projects. He added that a master plan is needed to facilitate such ventures and that the government is willing to provide the necessary regulations to make the investors' jobs easier.

Swedes look to Jordan as gateway

By Ian Atalla
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Although the Swedish government will continue to adhere strictly to what the United Nations decides in regard to Iraq or any other issue, "it is my personal opinion that the time has come to reconsider lifting the sanctions," the head of the Swedish Trade Council (STC) team currently visiting the Kingdom told the Jordan Times Tuesday.

"We look forward to the day when the Iraqi market will be opened up again, and Jordan will aid us as a gateway to reach that market," said Lennart Grandelius.

If the countries of the world wish to participate in rebuilding Iraq's infrastructure and guiding Iraq "in the right direction," he explained, "then this cannot be done from outside the country."

Mr. Grandelius said that his group was the first official or semi-official Swedish trade delegation to visit the region in some time, "after the problems we've had here in the last two or three years."

What had encouraged the STC to come at last, he explained, was "the general activities in the region at present," including the peace negotiations and the rebuilding of some of the region's markets.

Jordan was also of interest to

the STC because of its large pool of skilled labourers and technical experts, he added.

Amman Chamber of Commerce (ACC) Vice-President Haydar Murad emphatically pointed out to STC delegation members that in 1993, Sweden exported almost \$36 million worth of goods and services to Jordan, whereas Jordan's exports to Sweden totalled a mere \$170,000.

Mr. Murad, speaking during a meeting held between ACC members and the Swedish delegation, said that in view of the vastly lopsided trade activity between the two nations, "Sweden is required to find ways of increasing its imports from Jordan."

Swedish Ambassador to Jordan Christian Bausch replied that this trade imbalance "is a problem to be deplored — but I think it is a problem which Jordan has with most European countries."

Mr. Murad also called for the increased establishment of joint capital ventures between the two nation's private sectors to match Sweden's pioneering work in technical fields with Jordan's skilled labour pool.

Mr. Grandelius told the Jordan Times that the STC had gone against typical foreign trade delegation procedures by bringing only seven representatives from some of Sweden's larger heavy industrial firms as part of its group.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Book exhibition and cultural displays at the British Council (10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.).
- ★ Exhibition by Iraqi artist Shawkat Al Rubaie at the Italian Language Centre (9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.) (Tel. 669348).
- ★ Exhibition of Ikebana the traditional Japanese art of flower arranging at the Marriott Hotel.
- ★ Exhibition of water colour paintings by artist Itab Hreth and another exhibition of ceramics by Sajida Elmedhichi at Ain Art Gallery in Wadi Sqara (Tel. 644351, 652823).
- ★ Exhibition by artist Helmi El-Toufi at Baladna Art Gallery (Tel. 667598).
- ★ Spring exhibition of "Artists Expressions in Wool," the Bani Hamida project of art works and rugs at the Jordan Contractors Association Building in Abdoun (Tel. 612169).
- ★ "Spring Exhibition" (quilts, cushions, lamp shades, etc.) at the Zawaideh villa, opposite the Contractor's Association in Abdoun (Tel. 656172).
- ★ Exhibition of silk paintings by artist Soud Nermeh Akrouk at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by artists Walid Sheet and Nazem Hamed at Ain Art Gallery (Tel. 639503).
- ★ Art exhibition by Bashir Ibrahim at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by five Egyptian artists at Darat Al Fann of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweibdeh. Also showing "permanent" exhibition of 56 Arab contemporary artists (Tel. 643251/2).
- ★ Exhibition by artist Mohammad Mahrudin at Ab'ad Art Gallery.

ARAB POETS GATHERING

- ★ Poetry recital by Arab poets at the Phoenix Gallery for Art and Culture at 7:00 p.m. (Tel. 695291).

الجمعية الاردنية للعلوم الطبية للفلسطينيين

MAP

يانصيب

٢٨ الجائزة الكبرى
سيارة مرسيدس C 180
مجموعة ١٩٩٤
٢٩ جوائز أخرى
٣٠ سعر البطاقة خمسة دنانير
Ticket JD 5
٣١ السحب على التوالى
٣٢ تاريخ ٩٤/٥/١١ وستعلن
النتائج في الصحف المحلية

TODAY IS THE DRAWING OF LOTS

to take place in camera by Jordan Television and the results will be published in the local press

بالتعاون مع
مجموعة شاهين للإعلام والإستثمار

٣٣ للاستفسار هاتف ٦١١٠٦٥

اماكن بيع التذاكر

٢٨ العجمي - لم اذينة	٢٩ فيديو رؤوف - الدوار لسانع	٣٠ ميوزك بوكس - الدوار لسانع	٣١ محمص الفريز - ضاحية الربابة	٣٢ شركة فورم لللاث - مقابل فندق فيلادلفيا	٣٣ شركة ليريق للمطعم الاكترونية	شارع وادي صغره - مجمع المطاعم التجارية	شركة ليريق للمطعم الاكترونية - الملاحه	الشمسية	الزرقام	مصيلية لزرقام الجديدة	الرصيفة	١ مصيلية قنديل - شارع باجوز	٢ مصيلية بيسان - الرصيفة	أرويد:	١ مصيلية لسمعون - أرويد	٢ مصيلية لشقوي - شارع جامعة	٣ مصيلية الهيم - مخيم أرويد	الرمثاء:	مصيلية الرمثا الجديدة	العقبة:	١ مصيلية العقبة	٢ فندق كورامونا (١)	٣ ركن الهدايا	
٣٤ سوق الرينيو - الدوار الاول	٣٥ سويت سوبر ماركت - الدوار الخامس	٣٦ ميني ماركت لسانع ناصر الدين - تلح العلي	٣٧ مصيلية الخولي - الدوار لسانع	٣٨ مصيلية روجي - جبل عمان	٣٩ مصيلية رولاند - وادي صغره	٤٠ مصيلية مخيم الحسين - جبل الحسين	٤١ مصيلية دور النخلة - جبل الحسين	٤٢ مصيلية ملاك - الوحدت	٤٣ مصيلية الوحدت - شارع القنادي - الوحدت	٤٤ مصيلية بسمة - شارع الجارندز	٤٥ مصيلية سحاح - شارع الجارندز	٤٦ مصيلية لم اذينة - لم اذينة	٤٧ مصيلية جمال - الجببية	٤٨ مصيلية لمعدي - العبدلي	٤٩ مصيلية الشنفلان - المدينة الرياضية	٥٠ مصيلية العربية الكبرى - شارع الملك فيصل	٥١ مصيلية رجا - الشبيسياني	٥٢ مصيلية صغور - خلف مجمع النقابات	٥٣ مصيلية ركن الدوا - ضاحية الربابة	٥٤ مكتبة الكتبة - شارع الجارندز	٥٥ مكتبة فراس - الدوار لللاث	٥٦ مكتبة الجامعة - شارع الجارندز	٥٧ مكتبة الجامعة - جبل للويدة	٥٨ مطعم روميو - جبل عمان

Jordan Times

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Honour not law of jungle

UNLIKE THE public outrage sparked by the rape and murder of an eight-year-old boy in Zarqa earlier this year, reaction was muted to the killing of 15-year-old Khawla, shot by her brother this week and countless others before her in the name of what has come to be known as "family honour." No remorse was felt by either Khawla's parents or members of her family just as hardly a word was said about the earlier victims of the long-listed crimes of passion.

Khawla's was the tenth reported case of its kind since the beginning of this year. Yet sympathy for the victims was nowhere in evidence in our society. While news of such killings are being covered by the media, human rights organisations and women movements seem also to completely ignore the issue.

Crimes of honour, or passion, as they might be called in the West, involve the killing of women for suspected relationships with men. In almost all of the cases, these crimes are committed usually on the basis of rumours or flimsy evidence. In the case of Khawla, the brother did not even bother to verify if she really had an affair. An anonymous letter that accused his sister of illicit sexual contacts was a sufficient alibi for him to pull the trigger against her.

The lack of legal protection seems to encourage the recurrence of such heinous acts. If the killer was under 18 years of age, he would often be transferred to a rehabilitation centre for two years. The killer would afterwards go scot free, without even the trace of a criminal record.

Such killings occur at a time when human rights and democratic reforms are sweeping the country. Repetitive calls to enhance the situation of human rights do not seem to include the murder in cold blood of young girls, who might happen to be innocent of any wrong-doing.

Not only the society is indifferent to the killing of innocent girls, but is giving a leeway to parents to encourage their children to commit crimes. Those who are capable of killing their sisters without even feeling remorse can easily become sworn murderers.

If Jordanians at large are calling for more freedoms and more democracy, they should begin with eliminating worn-out practices and fratricide for whatever reason. Amending the laws and introducing tougher legislation to combat crimes of this nature must be a priority in the country's drive towards an improved situation of human rights and productive living. Just in case our lawmakers do not want to get near discussing a sensitive issue, however, the executive branch has to move in force to stop the slaughter. A citizen, who takes the law in his own hands, is not a good citizen. Unlawful acts have to be preempted, and where that is not possible, their perpetrators have to be severely punished. Plainly, the common good of society should supersede dark-age thinking.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Tuesday interpreted France's decision to halt its participation in the naval inspection of ships bound for Aqaba as a signal for Jordan to take up a more courageous stand and demand a total ban on such inspections at sea or by land. Tareq Masarweh said that Jordan hopes the French stand will be copied by China and Russia because the siege on Aqaba was causing the country severe economic losses. The naval blockade exercised on Aqaba is a kind of war activity launched by hostile forces against this country which, the writer said, should uphold His Majesty King Hussein's decision firmly and refrain from participating in the peace talks until all forms of inspections end. It is regrettable that news about the extent of damage to the national economy was first heard from the shipping agents in Jordan rather than from the Foreign Ministry, and it is regrettable to see Jordanian representatives still attend some of the multilateral meetings of the peace process, added Mr. Masarweh. What is also to be regretted is the fact that the sole superpower which is behind the siege of our port has now changed its mind about ending the inspections at sea following a visit by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to a neighbouring Arab country that buys a lot of American fire works, said the writer. He said Jordan should take a brave stand vis-a-vis the siege on Aqaba which, he said, is clearly an American pressure and intimidation exercised against the Kingdom.

The View from Fourth Circle

Yemen: symptoms, diseases and Range Rovers

By Rami G. Khouri

The fighting in Yemen, painful as it is to watch, cannot be assessed as a purely Yemeni phenomenon, in isolation of the wider trends that have defined the Middle East in the last quarter century.

Ever since the civil war in Lebanon in 1975, we have watched one Arab country after another slide into civil war, clash militarily with neighbours or foreign powers, or suffer internal paralysis and drift due to domestic strife between government authorities and opponents. The last decade of the 20th century has been a painful one for the Arab World, and the pain continues unabated. It has been manifested not only in armed confrontations and repeated waves of refugees, but also in several cases where democratic transformation was initiated and then halted or reversed.

The Lebanese war in the late 1970s was viewed then as a tragic but isolated phenomenon, reflecting the unique circumstances of the volatile mix of Lebanese ethnic and religious pluralism with the ramifications of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Time, however, has proved this perception wrong, for other Arab lands have successively suffered similar national grief.

In the late 1970s, Syria experienced a violent internal revolt led by Islamists who engaged the government in a brutal military confrontation that resulted in tens of thousands of deaths, notably in the city of Hama. In Sudan, the civil strife has continued for over a decade, causing tremendous human suffering due to political disputes and drought. In Somalia, an entire country first fragmented into two parts, and then engaged in violent domestic strife that required international intervention.

Kuwait was a particularly sad case of a country invaded and set afire by a neighbouring Arab country, Iraq, which in turn has suffered massive destruction at the hands of Western armies and a continuing economic embargo. Iraq also hovers precariously on the edge of partition into northern, central and southern components, its sovereignty effectively suspended in the north.

Algeria, Tunisia and Egypt have all experienced significant domestic stress, with Islamists leading a challenge to the power of the ruling authorities. All three states initiated democratic transformations in the 1980s, but all three have since pulled back into the apparently more comfortable tradition of autocratic rule. Libya was bombed by Western forces in the late 1980s and has since floundered, largely due to the impact of the international sanctions resulting from the bombing of the Pan Am plane over Lockerbie. Morocco valiantly attempts to address its economic and political challenges, but continues to be sidetracked by the problem of the Western Sahara. Yemen experienced a violent internal struggle in the south in the late 1980s, and now suffers the same problem on a nationwide scale. Djibouti and Mauritania, on the fringes of Arabism but members of the Arab League, struggle along under severe economic and environmental pressures, ostensibly trying to adopt democratic systems while still suffering credibility problems due to the top-heavy nature of their domestic political power structures.

There are many economic, political and social reasons why the Arab World in the last several decades has been characterised by recurring political violence, but in almost

every Arab country the same pattern can be traced. After independence, a small group of people unilaterally seizes power or is installed in power by the former colonial masters. Throughout the second half of this century, the small ruling elite — along with its cousins, friends and guards — tightens its grip on economic, military and political power. The traditional Arab social structure characterised by patriarchal, top-heavy relations among people is applied to the political system, which usually adopts a cult-like hero-worshipping and deification of national leaders to the point not only of authoritarianism and political absurdity, but also of human degradation.

The result is an unnatural and unsustainable cycle whereby individuals are told to freeze their rational functions and forfeit their God-given right to participate in decisions that determine their lives and the future prospects of their children. The modern Arab states that were carved out of the Middle Eastern landscape by Europe's fading imperial powers at the start of this century have reached the end of the century in a rather precarious state; almost every single Arab country is hobbled by fragmentation of the wider Arab hinterland, suffers from deep population/resources imbalances, political stresses, and the pain of economic structural adjustment, and spends an unusually high percentage of its national budget on defence and security.

In retrospect, the war in Lebanon in the 1970s was not an exceptional event; rather, it was a natural and inevitable consequence of all that had happened before in this century, and also a warning and a harbinger of what remained to happen in other, similarly distorted Arab lands — proud and ancient Arab lands where, in this bizarre century, people were educated but not allowed to express their thoughts; people were told they were free and independent, but had no say in selecting their national leaderships; people were told of the sacred importance of Arab national identity and unity, but most Arab countries scrambled individually to position themselves under the protection, if not the virtual sponsorship, of foreign powers.

This pattern of skewed, strange statehood worked for a few decades after mid-century, but by the late 1970s it started to crumble — felled by the twin daggers of a) an insensitive and often brutal political order that denied the humanity of people who had endured on these lands for thousands of years, and b) the mortal impact of oil money that was unevenly shared in society, in direct proportion to the distribution of political power, resulting in growing suffering among the poor and the display of vulgar, largely unearned wealth by the rich.

In such a context of national contortion and historical grief, it was not much of a surprise to watch Lebanese, Palestinians, Syrians, and Israelis fight one another with heavy cannon in Lebanon in the late 1970s, and then to see the United States Navy join in the shooting gallery and the sorrow of the mass burials. The sight of Arab warplanes and artillery bombing their own cities and people is no longer unusual in the Arab World.

Yemen is only the latest episode of this ugly modern legacy — this legacy of states that don't work, of governments that have little credibility or legitimacy, of ordinary people who have to suffer the indignity of watching their leaders squander national wealth on imported military equipment that is largely

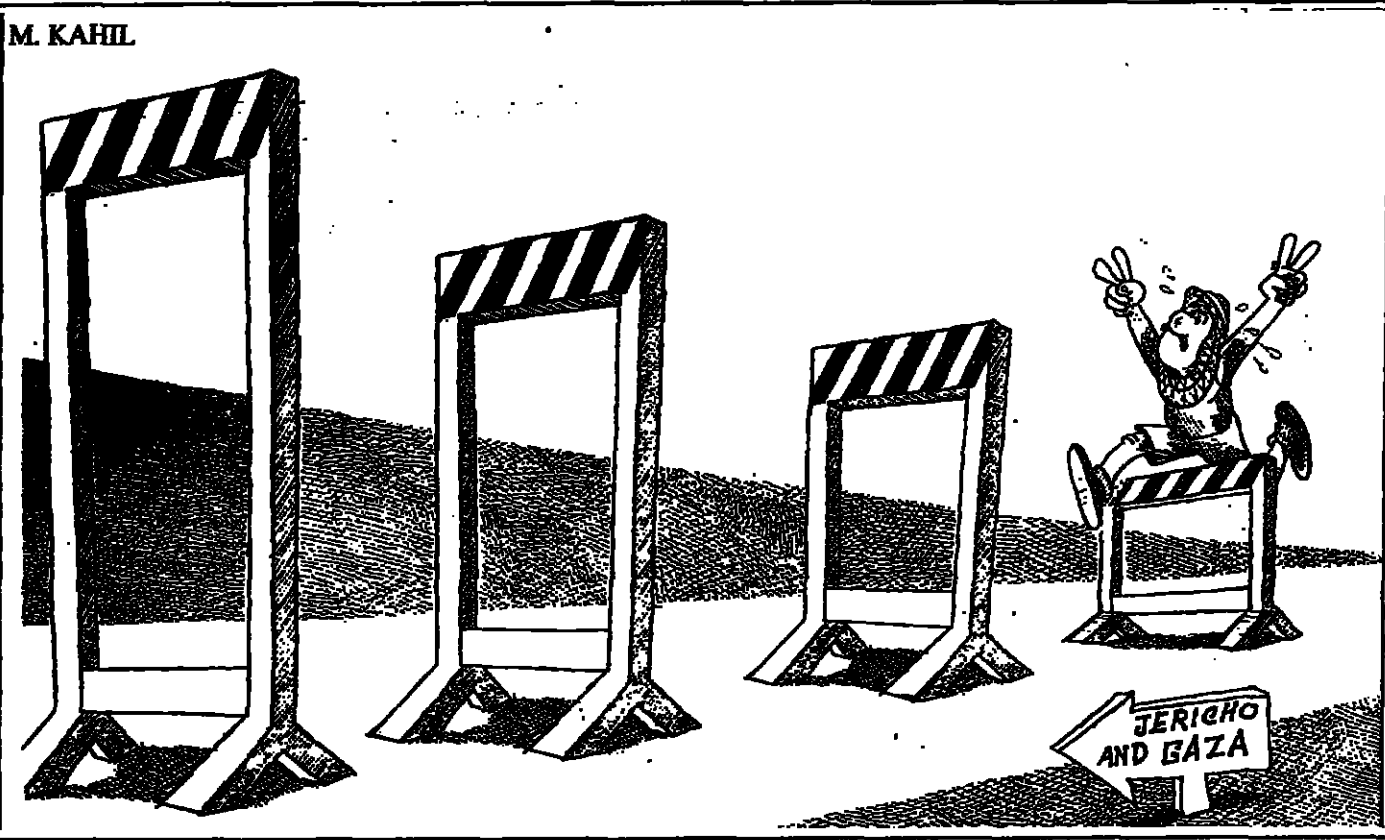
used against domestic foes or Arab neighbours, and of an Arab national identity that is writhing in pain, unwilling to be pacified by the drugs of emotional sloganeering and the intoxicating but false elixirs of imported consumer products that have been offered by most Arab governments and power establishments in the last half a century.

The problem in Yemen goes far beyond personal rivalries, feuds over power-sharing or the control of oil revenues, or ideological differences. Never in this century has Yemen found the right balance between its own cultural identity, its tribal organisation, and the demands of modern statehood. Yemen does not work well as a state because of its partition in colonial days, the post-colonial foreign dependency hangover in the south, the autocratic, usually inefficient government systems in the north and south in recent decades, and the general incompatibility between the tribal, decentralised social structure of the country and the republican, centralised nature of the political system it tried to adopt since 1990.

Yemen is not alone in this respect. Most other Arab countries share the similar status of floating between their own ancient cultural traditions and the made-in-Europe, post-1920 national frontiers and political institutions that were handed to them, if not imposed on them, earlier this century. The Western media largely describe the fighting in Yemen today as a civil war. It is far more than that. It is the latest episode in the long and continuing saga of an Arab region seeking to overcome its post-colonial deformities, and to figure out more sensible forms of statehood and political governance than the forms that we have lived with for the past half a century. Yemen is not yet an expression of the solution — though the reconciliation document that both sides in Yemen signed in Amman earlier this year has some fascinating ideas about how to forge a unified and democratic Yemen on the basis of ancient cultural, social and power patterns in that land.

Yemen today is a reminder of our most important and common Arab problem: dysfunctional statehood. Try as we may to hide it under a mountain of Coca Cola, football games, and Range Rovers, this fundamental Arab national flaw will return again and again to haunt us, to make us fire our own missiles at our own cities in the name of freedom, brotherhood, and unity, and ultimately to dehumanise us. The only thing that hurts more than to watch the fighting in Yemen is the question that will not leave me: which Arab state will be next? Which Arab city will be bombed next by its own people? Until when will dysfunctional Arab statehood be allowed to persist in its nearly century-long display of immaturity, fear and violence?

I doubt the Yemeni people in their streets and neighbourhoods want this war to happen. Yet, it happens because in dysfunctional states leaders usually view the state and its people not as their trust, but as their property, as their fief. The Yemeni war is a symptom of a far wider disease that has plagued the Arab World for many decades. It makes little sense for us to express sorrow over the suffering of the Arab Nation if we are not willing to address the underlying disease — distorted governance, dysfunctional statehood — that causes the suffering. Yemen reminds us how difficult it is going to be to address these underlying problems, but also how urgent it is to do so.



N. Korea 'reform' for train riders' eyes only

By Jeffrey Parker
Reporter

HUNCHUN, China — For embattled strongman Kim Il-Sung, the fast track to reuniting North Korea's Stalinist economy starts in Manchuria, the industrial base and grain basket of northeast China.

Early next year, hundreds of rich South Koreans will board a Chinese train in the bustling frontier town of Hunchun for a journey that has no precedent since the Korean Peninsula's cold war division after World War II. Sealed in their carriages by customs officials, the capitalist southerners will steam out across the icy Tumen River border and past North Korean guards with AK-47 rifles.

For the next few hours they will get their first glimpse of what for them is a frightening, forbidden landscape — the Communist Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Their passports will record only a trip to China, but their eyes will see sights forbidden to them for decades.

"We think demand for these tours will be great," said Manchurian railroad baron Liu Baisheng, who designed the deal as chairman of China's Shareholder-financed Northeast Asia Railway and Port Group.

"South Koreans are very curious about the north," Mr. Liu said recently in Changchun, capital of the

border province Jilin. Such passages would be impossible on the volatile, inter-Korean border, the world's last cold war hot spot where tens of thousands of Korean and U.S. troops are deployed.

But the sleepy Tumen River border with China is a friendly frontier where President Kim, inspired by dire economic necessity, has begun a cautious programme of Chinese-style "reform and opening up."

The Chinese train fits Mr. Kim's plans perfectly. Though it will stop briefly to unload coveted Chinese goods, it will not stop at Najin Port on the Sea of Japan but roll straight onto a ferry to South Korea or Japan.

Technically, the South Koreans will not have set foot in the north — where both Koreas forbid them to go. But each traveller will give Pyongyang's shattered state coffers desperately needed income: \$8 a head under an unprecedented 50-year joint venture with China.

Once in Japan or South Korea, the Chinese train will take on a new load of tourists for the reverse journey to Hunchun.

Mr. Liu said the Chinese side was motivated as much by market necessity as by socialist good-neighbourliness.

By encouraging North Korea's opening up and capitalising on its desperate need

for cash, Mr. Liu said, China makes more secure its crucial rail access to Sea of Japan ports.

China, whose territory ends 14 kilometres from the sea, is keen to export Manchuria's huge output of grain and industrial goods via North Korean and Russian ports.

"China needs reliable rail access to the Sea of Japan," Mr. Liu said. "The Koreans were happy to say yes because this (tour train) is a source of hard currency for them."

Mr. Liu, whose railway company is China's first to be funded by a public share issue, said the tour train is on track with China's pay-as-you-go "socialist market economy."

Chinese trains already transship Chinese goods and foreign imports, even South Korean cars, back and forth across North Korea between Tumen and Najin, which brings commissions for Pyongyang. But this is the first passenger train to bring third-country tourists into North Korea.

Well-heeled South Korean tourists have been flooding the Tumen River region, long an ethnic Korean stronghold, since Beijing and Seoul exchanged embassies in 1992.

Mr. Liu is so confident the North Korean train will lure tens of thousands more that he is lining up financing, building a short rail link across the Tumen, providing

the trains and even refitting Najin port for train ferries.

"We're going to make a lot of money — more than North Korea will," Mr. Liu said.

His investments make sense in view of a 20-year, \$30 billion push by the United Nations Development Programme to build a huge Tumen River delta economic development zone and free port on Chinese, Russian and North Korean land.

Mr. Liu is confident an international train station and customs post his firm is building in Hunchun will become the transport hub and communications centre for the Tumen zone, which is being promoted as "North Asia's Rotterdam."

Chinese businessmen and officials in the border area say China's successful 15-year dalliance with market economics is the envy of their North Korean counterparts. And they say China's strategy of nudging North Korea toward economic and political reform has begun to work.

Under quiet but firm pressure from Beijing — including a curtailment of cut-rate shipments of Chinese oil — Mr. Kim has promulgated seven reform laws to woo foreign investment.

He has also set up several development areas, including the Najin-Sonbong free trade zone where China's tour trains will end their curious traverse of North Korea.

'Punish the victim, protect the guilty'

By G.H. Jansen

HEBRON — On the day that the international observer mission starts functioning in this town, its chances of success did not look that bright. Any sort of international supervision is a limitation on national sovereignty so that Israel has restricted the duration of its mandate — to three months — and its powers — unarmed observation but not intervention.

Accordingly, after the massacre in the Hebron Mosque, in which over 30 worshippers were gunned down by a fanatical settler, the Israel government imposed a curfew that lasted for seven weeks, not on the settlers but on the local Palestinians. That caused them great hardship.

This volatile hilltop town, after all that has happened here following the massacre in the Ibrahim mosque on Feb. 25, remains a fine example of how Israeli "justice" is dispensed between native Muslim Palestinians and foreign Jewish settlers. This is firmly based on twin principles: punish the victim and protect the guilty.

Thus in the small open space in front of the solid, windowless rectangular mosque building, heavily armed Israeli soldiers chat with Israeli settlers in their informal uniform of dark trousers, white short sleeved shirts, white skull caps with sub-machine guns slung over their shoulders, though it was prohibited to carry weapons in public in Hebron since the massacre. No adult Palestinians were to be seen, only schoolchildren, because all the Palestinian shops in the area have been ordered closed. The first task of the "temporary international presence in the city of Hebron" will be to restore the area to normal activity. The fruit and vegetable market nearby has been moved several kilometres away to the new town near the municipality. Israel has now decided to deny the observers access to Jewish areas in the centre of the town, the very areas where tension is highest. And if Israel abides by this decision the monitoring group will be unable to carry out its mandate to restore the situation to "square-one."

Restoring normality has also been complicated by the grey cement wall about 500 yards long and six feet high

between Palestinian and Israeli areas in what was a sensitive spot in the commercial centre of the city. This wall prevents merchants from opening their shops and carrying on normal business activities.

The Israelis are also erecting fences inside the mosque that will clearly separate Jewish and Muslim worshippers who both frequent this holy spot.

The guiding principle is clearly division, because there is going to be hostility rather than pacification or conciliation.

The 60 observers who have 100 support staff, mostly policemen dressed in white, will not be able to redress the balance between Israelis and Palestinians, because their foot and mobile patrols could not function effectively in the steep narrow streets of the congested central area; they will be patrolling between 3 a.m. and 9 p.m. Although the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has portrayed the observers as a "force for peace" they are neither a force nor will they be able to afford "protection" to Palestinians from Israeli soldiers and settlers because they are not permitted to intervene in situations of conflict between Palestinians and Israelis. Armed only with cameras and video camera, they can only record and report on Israeli activities.

Notices in the local papers have asked people to report incidents to the observers. The sort of thing the observers may have to deal with was visible on Saturday morning in an alleyway close to the mosque: A bomb had been set off there a few hours earlier and soldiers and settlers were huddled around a second bomb which they were trying to defuse.

A different sort of time bomb was visible along the road from Jerusalem and Bethlehem, now virtually a single entity. Usually sited on hillsides, for defence, are the solid, handsomely-structured buildings of the Israeli settlements, all with distinctive red-tiled roofs in contrast to the squat grey cement buildings of the Palestinian villages.

Hebron and the surrounding area is clearly to remain a flashpoint until there is a further separation of the two peoples with the removal of the settlers, whose presence in occupied territory is illegal under international law.

Ethnic cleansing in Jerusalem

By Pascal B. Karmy

MANY WESTERNERS, even those who are normally knowledgeable about Palestinian recent history, are under the impression that West Jerusalem of former Palestine belongs entirely to the Jews of Palestine.

There were many inhabited quarters and villages in West Jerusalem which belonged to the Palestinian Arab people. Forty per cent of the lands situated there were owned by them and 20 per cent owned by the Jews and the rest were owned and some are still owned by the Islamic Waqf (Muslim religious trust) and Christian churches, monasteries and convents. Among the well-known Arab quarters in West Jerusalem are Mamilla, Talbiya, Baga' Al Foga, Baga' Al Tahia. Even, for example, in Jaffa Street and King George Street and in Mahina Yehuda quarter in the heart of West Jerusalem, many Arab families owned several buildings such as Shiber, Tannous, Saansour and Karmy families, to mention only a few.

About 65,000 Palestinian Arabs were expelled from their own villages and homes

West of Jerusalem as in Deir Yassin (in which the first Palestinian Arab holocaust was committed by the Jews in 1948) and Ain Karim, Malha, Lifta, Sataf and many others. The Jews committed in effect ethnic cleansing in those areas. The Serbs of Bosnia are now emulating what the Jews did to the Arab population in Palestine in 1948 and thereafter.

In 1967 the area of the Eastern Arab Jerusalem municipality was about 37,000 dunums (a dunum is about 1,000 sqm.). After the occupation Israel annexed to East Jerusalem about 72,000 dunums from the Palestinian territory by sheer confiscation, and unified East and West Jerusalem and declared it the eternal capital of Israel. The annexed territory consisted of fields and cultivated areas excluding the Palestinian inhabitants of those areas so as to ensure a Jewish majority in East Jerusalem. In effect, due to the continuous settlement building in that area, Israel has been able to effect serious demographic changes which have consequently produced a Jewish majority to the detriment of the original Arab inhabitants.

It is common knowledge

that the actions of Israel in East Jerusalem contravene several U.N. resolutions passed by the Security Council against the building of settlements and the demographic changes in East Jerusalem. But, as usual, Israel discarded those resolutions just as the Serbs of Bosnia turn a deaf ear to the U.N. resolutions and keep pursuing their national ambitions.

It is undeniable that East Jerusalem is part and parcel of the West Bank territory. The U.N. time and again recognised this status of Jerusalem and the United States on several occasions in the past adhered to this status. It is regrettable that when the Security Council debated the massacre perpetrated in the Hebron Mosque, it appeared that the U.S. reserved its position with regard to the occupied character of East Jerusalem when the council had finally issued Resolution 907 condemning the massacre. It should be observed that the U.S. cannot retract from its often declared previous position, which is the correct one. And even if it did retract, such retraction will have no value whatsoever, factually or juridically.



FROM RAGS TO RICHES: Gazans, now living in one of the world's most underdeveloped city,

could see their lives transformed by the economic prosperity that peace promises to bring to

the area (AFP photo)

Gaza, new Hong Kong of the Middle East?

By Sami Aboudi
Reuters

GAZA — Palestinian building contractors, who anticipated that Palestinian self-rule would bring back thousands of expatriate Palestinians, have been busy changing the skyline of the Gaza Strip.

These same contractors helped build up Israel over the years, but they have been pulling out of the Israeli market to join the largest wave of construction in Gaza in decades.

"God willing, we will have peace and expatriates will start coming back looking for places to live," said Nahed Asusi, 26, who runs one of Gaza's biggest construction firms.

Gazan companies and

wealthy Palestinians started erecting high-rise apartment buildings across the squalid coastal strip shortly after the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel signed a broad peace accord in Washington in September.

Gazan investors said Israeli bans on buildings above six floors have been eased and 20-storey structures are now climbing skyward.

Low-rise private construction and Israel's confiscation of nearly 35 per cent of the land in Gaza, has created a land shortage and sent prices soaring to as high as \$1,400 a square metre in prime sites. A few years ago, the same land fetched about \$900 per square metre.

Six construction firms and several wealthy landowners are investing millions of dol-

lars in apartment blocks in Gaza City and other parts of Gaza, which is better known for its cinder-block refugee camps.

Contractors say more than 10 buildings of over 10 storeys are near completion while at least 30 more have been started or are planned.

"Now we are taking it easy, working on one project at a time. But once peace is achieved, we have the resources to take on five or even six projects at a time," Mr. Asusi said.

Prices, which run up to \$60,000 for a three bedroom flat, are beyond most of Gaza's one million Palestinians living in refugee camps and teeming towns.

Gaza's misery and poverty have turned the region into a

fertile recruiting ground for militant Islamic groups like Hamas. It was here that the intifada or uprising against Israeli occupation began seven years ago.

But Gazan builders are buoyant, saying wealthier Palestinians from the occupied West Bank were already showing interest.

Critics say Gaza's creaking infrastructure is not keeping pace with the building boom. Palestinians say the delay in the peace talks — the Israeli pullout had been due to be completed by mid-April — held up work on roads, water and drains.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin signed the self-rule accord on Gaza and the West Bank

enclave of Jericho in Cairo on Wednesday, giving Palestinians their first taste of freedom since the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

Gazans say that while most of the construction is by private investors, public construction by the Palestinian Housing Council, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency and by the United States aid programme are also contributing to the building boom.

"We need thousands and thousands of housing units to provide adequate accommodation to Palestinians in Gaza," said Bashir Dalloul, president of the Union of Arab Contractors in Gaza.

"There is hope for a new Gaza, the new Hong Kong of the Middle East," Mr. Dalloul said.

BBC joins French FM air wars in West Africa

By Thalia Griffiths
Reuters

ABIDJAN — As new FM stations fight for listeners in cities all over Francophone Africa, the BBC has launched its first African FM station in French to keep up with the competition.

Everyone from market traders and taxi drivers looking for entertainment to political leaders checking what the new stations say about them is zapping from channel to channel.

Radio France Internationale (RFI) has led the regional assault on FM, followed by Gabon-based Africa Number One, a mainly music and sport station owned by French and Gabonese interests.

The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) launched BBC Afrique FM on April 15 in Ivory Coast's capital Abidjan, where it also competes with joint French-Ivorian music venture Radio Nostalgie for the ear of the city's two million people.

"I listen to Africa Number One or the BBC. They have good African music. There's too much French music on Nostalgie," said taxi driver Ali Toure.

The slick music, news and sport programmes from wealthy foreign stations are a big challenge to national broad-

casters. Ivorian Communications Minister Daniele Boni-Claverie concedes there is a problem for state radio television Ivoirienne (RTI).

"We have to see it as an opportunity for RTI to meet its new challenges by doing a better job in its mission to inform and to animate rural development," she told the BBC in an interview to mark the launch.

Paul Alfred Kadio, director of Radio Cote D'Ivoire, said many listeners switched between morning news programmes at 6 a.m. on the BBC, 6:15 on RCI, and 6:30 on RFI.

"People zap channels like you do with television. No one stays on one station all day."

The BBC and RFI are funded by taxpayers in Britain and France respectively.

Francophone countries are much more advanced in opening their airwaves than their Anglophone neighbours.

Mr. Kadio sees the acceptance of foreign, which usually means French, radio stations as part of generally closer links between France and its former colonies, but believes state radio has a very different job from its foreign counterparts.

"We are here to promote the national culture. We also

serve a great many listeners who aren't in Abidjan and don't get any FM station," he said.

"We don't have to race to give the news like the agencies and foreign radios. We can wait for the government to come up with information we can trust."

Ivorian state media played up assaults on Ivorian soccer fans in Ghana last October but virtually ignored revenge attacks in Ivory Coast in which the official toll was 25 dead.

RFI's launch in Abidjan last December, two days before the death of President Felix Houphouet-Boigny, enabled its correspondent to announce the news on FM before the national media, shocking many Ivorians.

"When there were political protests in 1990, everyone was listening to RFI to find out what was happening right here in Abidjan," said journalist Gnaka Lagoke. "People listened for years on short wave because the news is less bad than on radio Cote D'Ivoire, and now it's on FM it's much easier to pick up."

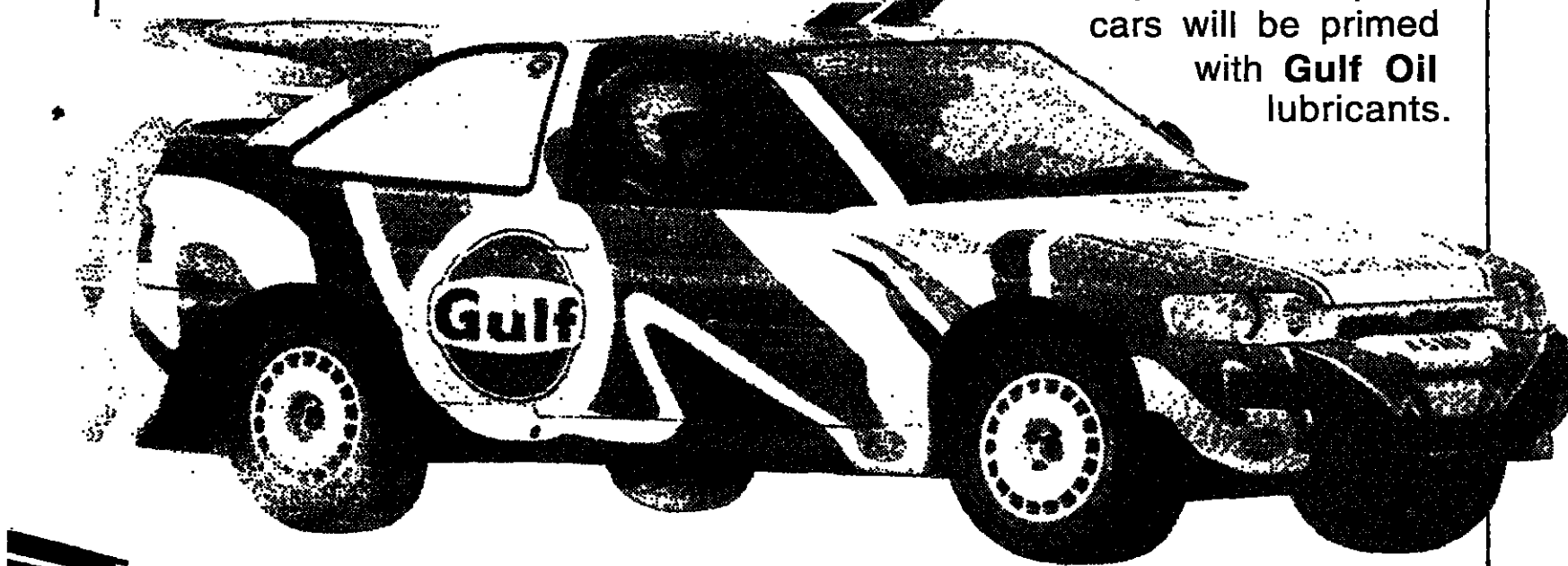
BBC Afrique FM broadcasts five hours daily of French Programmes, two hours a day of English, and hourly news bulletins. The remaining time is filled with music played automatically by a computer jukebox.

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TURKISH AIRLINES
NEW HORIZONS IN COMFORT

Physical demand to support gold at \$370-\$390 — consultants

LONDON (R) — Current levels of physical demand should support gold prices in their current \$370-390 per ounce range until a new trend emerges, consultants Gold Fields Mineral Services Ltd (GFMS) stated in its "Gold 1994" survey issued Tuesday.

The factors likely to establish a new trend are physical offtake, investment, central bank sales and producer hedging, the survey said.

GEMS Managing Director Stewart Murray said, "the reawakening of investor interest last year and the likelihood of a recovery in fabrication demand this year, suggest that the market for gold bullion is unlikely to slip back into the torpor which characterised

it in the two years prior to 1993."

Fairly flat market activity so far this year could be seen as a "recuperation" after the "excesses" of last year.

A year ago the unusually high level of physical demand, mainly from the Far East, was indicating that prices were too low. The message now is more complex, the survey said.

Flows of gold to the main Asian markets in the first quarter suggest they have adjusted to the new higher price level. Gold in March last year touched \$326.10, its lowest level since December, 1985 compared with around \$380 currently.

"This resilience suggests that physical offtake currently pro-

vides significant support for the price in the \$370-\$390 range," it stated.

The local factors that weakened Asian demand last year, particularly the Chinese austerity programme, might not be repeated in 1994, the survey added. Demand and prices would also be boosted if the developed countries succeeded in following the United States out of recession.

But there was a danger that if prices stayed flat rather than rising, they could begin to fall, especially if fears of higher inflation and disruption in South Africa proved groundless, the survey said.

But "... it is not impossible... to imagine a global sce-

nario of increasing economic uncertainty and political tensions which will provide fertile ground for investment in bullion, perhaps bringing in new players such as the mainstream mutual and pension funds," according to the survey.

Central banks' sales could be lower this year now that Canada — the largest seller last year — was cutting back sales, the banks seemed less inclined to dispose of their gold reserves than a year ago and most of the banks which sold then now had relatively small gold reserves, the survey said.

"It would seem unlikely that official sales could reach a level the market cannot comfortably absorb," it added.

Hata vows tax reforms, deregulation

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata vowed Tuesday to draft concrete plans in June to achieve tax reforms by the end of the year while pledging further steps to deregulate the economy.

Mr. Hata, in a policy speech to both houses of parliament, said economic reforms were crucial for reducing the nation's record current account surplus of \$130 billion and resuming stalled trade talks with the United States.

"Considering that criticism of the closed nature of Japan's market continues unabated, it is important to make efforts, intending to achieve a phased reduction of the current account surplus, to change Japan's economic structure so that it is internationally harmonious," the prime minister said.

"We must change our way of thinking and, not because we are told by other nations but for our own good, we must take the initiative in promoting large-scale economic reforms, including further improvement in market access centering on deregulation and other means," he said.

Mr. Hata, elected two weeks ago to head Japan's first minority government in 39 years, said tax reforms were "an important matter which cannot be postponed" given the rapid ageing of Japanese society.

Japan "must create a balanced tax system to ensure fiscal sources to support tax reduction 'while giving consideration to improving the fiscal structure which is in a truly dire state,'" he said.

The prime minister said his new government, appointed

April 28, "will draft a concrete plan during June and will make maximum efforts to ensure that it realises tax reforms by the end of the year."

Mr. Hata promised to formulate the tax reforms with "respect" to the coalition's policy platform and past resolutions in parliament, and the "understanding and cooperation of all parties and groups."

It was not clear if this included the Social Democratic Party (SDP), which helped to draw up the coalition platform before storming out the government two weeks ago. The party, the biggest group in the previous government of Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, is strongly opposed to increased consumption taxes.

Mr. Hata said delays in approving the budget for the fiscal year which started last month were "alarming," noting that they "could threaten to interfere with the economic recovery and thereby have a serious impact on people's lives."

"To further consolidate the steps toward economic recovery, I would like to strongly appeal for full cooperation in the earliest possible passage of the budget for the new fiscal year and of bills and items already submitted," he said.

Mr. Hata called on the private sector to "take on new challenges and make investments for the future" to help bring about sustainable economic recovery.

"I intend to do my utmost for the steady implementation of the various reforms — including economic reform, administrative reform, fiscal reform, tax reform and the promotion of decentralisation

— proposed by the previous cabinet and still at an intermediate stage," the prime minister said.

Mr. Hata vowed to cultivate new industries from a "new perspective," specifically mentioning the telecommunications sector and environmentally-friendly industries. He also pledged support for small- and medium-sized industries while relaxing and abolishing various regulations.

Meanwhile, the Economic Planning Agency (EPA) indicated in a monthly report Tuesday that Japan's prolonged economic slump appears to have entered its fourth year, making it the country's longest downturn since World War II.

"The Japanese economy is going through an adjustment phase and sluggishness continues as a whole, although there are some bright movements," said the report, which showed no major changes from its diagnosis the previous month.

The phrase was identical to that used in the April report, which mentioned signs of recovery for the first time in nine months.

The latest report signalled 37 successive months of economic downturn, exceeding the previous record of 36 months between February 1980 and March 1983 when the Japanese economy was reeling from the second oil shock.

The agency, however, was cautious in interpreting the latest report given that many of the conclusions were based on economic data for March.

Yoshio Terasawa, the new director general of the Economic Planning Agency, was

more cautious. Asked repeatedly by reporters whether the latest report confirmed that the economy was now in the longest slump since the war, he merely said: "Economic conditions are very austere."

One agency official noted that the judgment on whether the economy has bottomed out or not usually lags at least six months from the time of upturn.

"We did not mean to say in the report that the recession has continued for 37 months," another agency official said. "Some economists say the economy bottomed out in October. But as far as the government's judgment goes, we have not made any announcement yet."

The Economic Planning Agency has been extremely cautious in interpreting its monthly report ever since an agency chief jumped the gun early last year, announcing signs of recovery which subsequently never materialised.

In its latest report, the agency said that the "bright movements" mentioned in April were limited again to certain areas in May.

"I don't have a feeling that brightness is expanding further," an official said. "We need to assess carefully" future movements of the economy.

Bright signs in the May report included an upturn in personal spending and progress in inventory reduction. Corporate sentiment towards the economy also appears to have stopped worsening, the agency said.

But corporate earnings are continuing to drop, resulting in weak private-sector capital investment, and industrial output remains sluggish.

Pakistan plans cuts in import tariff

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Pakistan plans to reduce its maximum import tariffs from the existing 80 per cent to 35 per cent over the next three financial years, officials said.

The tariff will be reduced to 70 per cent in July at the start of the new financial year. It will be lowered in 45 per cent in 1995 and to 35 per cent in 1996.

Commerce Minister Mukhtar Ahmad told a conference of local and foreign business executives in Islamabad that Pakistan was "trying its best to integrate its economy and trade policies in the overall global economic and trading system."

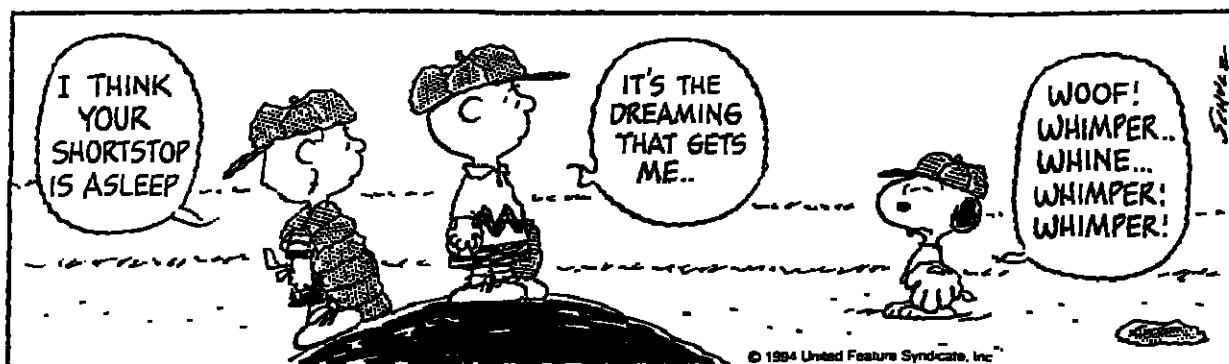
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Peanuts



Mutt'n'Jeff



ATT wins \$4 billion Saudi contract

NEW YORK (R) — ATT Corp. said Monday it won a hotly contested \$4 billion contract to greatly expand Saudi Arabia's telephone system, the largest telecommunications contract ever granted outside of the United States.

"After several months of intense and detailed analysis by our engineers of all the offers, ATT was chosen as the best, both technically and in cost," Alawi Kayyal, minister of post, telegraph and telephone for Saudi Arabia, said in a statement released by ATT.

Other foreign companies reported to be bidding for the contract included Sweden's L.M. Ericsson Telefon A.B., Japan's NEC Corp. and North-east Telecom Ltd of Canada.

The project, known as the

Telephone Expansion Project — 6 (TEP-6), calls for a fully digital communications network with 1.5 million lines, and thousands of components for switching, transmission, network management, fiber optics, wireless, civil works and training projects.

The project, expected to be completed by the beginning of the next decade, will double the capacity of Saudi Arabia's existing system and provide new local, toll, and international services to the entire kingdom.

"We've worked with Saudi Arabia for 15 years on many projects and have supported the ministry's efforts to provide advanced communications to the kingdom," ATT Chairman Robert Allen said in the

statement.

"We wish to thank the government of Saudi for trusting ATT with the task of bringing Saudi Arabia's network to new levels as they enter the 21st century," he said.

Washington had lobbied heavily with the Saudis for the ATT deal. When Secretary of State Warren Christopher visited the kingdom late last month, he asked the nation to consider granting ATT the \$4 billion contract.

Even President Bill Clinton had urged Saudi King Fahd to take a look at the bid.

Telephone industry analyst George Dellinger of Natwest Securities-Washington Analysts called the contract a major coup for ATT, the largest tele-

phone company in the world.

The announcement came after trading closed on the New York Stock Exchange, where ATT's stock ended down 25 cents at \$51.75.

The U.S. role in the Gulf war probably helped the American company with the bid, Mr. Dellinger said.

Saudi Arabia last week also wrapped up talks to buy \$6 billion in airplanes from Boeing Co. of Seattle and McDonnell Douglas Corp. of St. Louis.

Boeing is the dominant player in the world market for commercial jets, while McDonnell Douglas is number three behind Airbus Industrie, the European consortium that is being shut out of the deal.

BBC, Pearson announce global TV alliance

LONDON (R) — The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) and the British media group Pearson PLC Tuesday announced a global alliance to expand their satellite-television interests throughout the world.

"Our vision is of a BBC that maintains its central position at the heart of British broadcasting while at the same time, by virtue of its core values, becomes a major world player in the new broadcasting markets," said John Birt, the BBC's director-general, in a statement.

"The alliance will provide a robust framework for a number of joint ventures, each of which will be set up as an independent entity with its own market, and with other investing partners," Pearson PLC said in a statement.

Plans have already been agreed for the first of these ventures, which will encompass two pan-European channels.

A news and information channel will build on the BBC's World Service Television (WST) which currently broadcasts to audiences in Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Canada.

A new entertainment channel will replace the BBC's existing general programming channel, which has been offering a satellite service, primarily for cable distribution, in Europe for some years, said Pearson.

The first channel will be funded by advertising, the second by subscription and it is intended that both will be launched by the end of the year.

Neither channel will be licensed for distribution to viewers in Britain or Eire.

Pearson's growing media interests already included a share in British satellite television service BSKYB, British production house Thames Television and the Financial Times, Europe's leading business newspaper.

High interest rates hit Turkish industry

ANKARA (R) — Turkish businessmen, long used to breakneck growth, fear a bleak future in which high interest rates and inflation may force firms to sack workers or go bust.

Boom-laden warnings have been coming even from close allies of Prime Minister Tansu Ciller, such as Yalim Erez, head of the Turkish Union of Chambers and Bourses.

"The financial crisis in the economy has now become a production crisis," he told the union Tuesday. "The economy will see high inflation and stagnation unless steps are taken."

Businessmen see a crunch looming when bank debt payments fall due at the end of next month.

"Real trouble will come in late June when businessmen start to repay three-months interest," Memduh Hacıoglu, former head of the Istanbul Chamber of Industry said. "Many firms will sink."

Sozer Ozel, chairman of Ankara Chamber of Industry, echoed his view. "At least 70 per cent of borrowers will fail to pay their debts. Unfortunately I am sure of it," he told Reuters.

Banks have been cutting credit lines to industry, opting to place their excess lira with the

central bank on the interbank market at tempting overnight rates of over 300 per cent.

Some top firms are still able to borrow at annual rates of around 240 per cent to meet urgent cash needs. But many have cut spending and investment, laid off workers or stopped operating.

Mr. Ozel estimated that 100,000 people had lost their jobs this year. Official figures put unemployment at 7.9 per cent in 1993.

The central bank has kept its overnight borrowing rate high to keep the dollar in check. Its last experiment with rates below 100 per cent set off a dollar frenzy in early April.

Officials said Ms. Ciller was insisting on high interest rates to defend the lira, despite the damage inflicted on industry.

"I don't see any reason for a decline in interest rates. The state's cash need is continuing and the government keeps interest rates high to save the lira," Mr. Ozel said.

Key one-year deposit rates are now running at around 130 per cent, outstripping wholesale price inflation which reached an all-time high of 125.3 per cent last month.

Officials have set a year-end target of 110 per cent for wholesale inflation, after last year's 60.3 per cent.

Australia banks on investment to haul down deficit

CANBERRA (R) — Australia Tuesday unveiled a budget deficit reduction plan based on surging investment and faster economic growth.

"We can confidently look forward to high rates of employment and economic growth, falling unemployment, the continuation of low inflation and rising real wages and living standards," Treasurer Ralph Willis told reporters.

Defying financial market calls for stronger cuts in the government's annual budget, Mr. Willis said the 1994/95 deficit, for the year beginning July, would be \$11.7 billion Australian dollars (\$8.4 billion), down from an expected \$13.6 billion Australian dollars (\$9.8 billion) in 1993/94.

Annual economic growth at over four per cent, and the rising tax revenue it would bring, would haul the deficit down to 4.8 billion Australian dollars (\$3.5 billion), or just 0.9 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP), by 1996/97, Mr. Willis said.

Australia's GDP grew 3.7 per cent in calendar 1993. Investment, which has been

flat or falling since Australia's 1990-91 recession, is supposed to finally recover in the coming fiscal year, with Mr. Willis projecting 14.5 per cent growth to support his economic outlook.

The treasurer announced little new spending and taxation, and said he expected financial markets would be satisfied by the promises of lower deficits in the late 1990s.

"I think the markets will be pleased to see the out-year figures," he told reporters.

Prime Minister Paul Keating announced last week the government's biggest new spending plan — an unemployment relief programme costing 1.1 billion Australian dollars (\$790 million) in 1996/97.

The plan upset Australian financial markets, pushing bond yields higher and share prices lower as investors waited until Tuesday to see how the government would pay for it.

Mr. Willis said Tuesday that stronger growth would pay for the plan, and the government could still marginally improve on its fiscal targets.

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

VORAB
EXVIN
PROOCE
LAMDAY

Look - they're working on Wednesday!

DR. SMITH
DR. JONES
OPEN

WHAT THE TWO PHYSICIANS WERE CALLED

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: A " _____ "

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: LOFTY LIBEL CARBON STUCCO
Answer: What the amateur rocketeers called themselves — A "BOOSTER" CLUB

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY MAY 11, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Make sure that you know exactly what partners are expecting from you and take time to clear up any misunderstandings that have developed recently. Share a happy evening with friends.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Obtain important information for a project you are interested in before you go ahead with definite plans. Be wise.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) If you handle routine duties in a modern manner, you gain benefits. Study a new plan before making any changes to try to enhance performance.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Don't neglect important tasks early in the day. Try to cooperate more with associates whom you are associated with. Strive for harmony.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Be sure you don't take on any heavy expenditures of money in the evening. Allow time to engage in creative activities which benefit you.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Postpone going ahead with a new interest you have in mind. Wait until a better time to proceed ahead. Evening is fine for recreation.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Improve the foundation of your life so you can have more abundance in the days ahead. Get rid of annoying conditions which frustrate you.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Iron out any problems with others in a quiet and tactful manner. Seek the company of congenial friends for a wonderful time tonight.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You have to use careful thought in handling monetary affairs today. Use your intuitive faculties for best results on a new project.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Use a different attitude in handling a puzzling situation and you get better results. Seek the company of friends tonight.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You have hidden desires that need more study before you pursue them. Strive for increased happiness in whatever is your activity.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Some of your friends may have problems so be sure to give a helpful hand. Show others you have practical wisdom on any matter.

THE Daily Crossword by Henry Satchell

ACROSS
1 Corn silk
2 Tempo
10 Stretched
14 "Inferno" author
15 Biblical land
16 Wildcat's toad
17 Mideast ruler
18 Asian staple
19 Baby bed
20 Problem-solving process
23 Rustin
24 Water: Sp.
25 Meant: abbr.
26 Do the crawl
30 Intermix
34 "To mine own — be true"
36 God of love
38 Covered with frost
39 Problem-solving process
42 Maternity related
43 Campus VIP
44 Abstract being
45 Tax filing
47 Pass over
49 That girl
50 Vintage cars
52 Mythical hero
53 Wild Narcissus
54 Problem-solving process
59 Membership fee
60 Butter substitute
61 Broadcast
63 Assist
64 TV's "L..."
65 Kind of act
66 Chums
67 Swiss of films
68 Antagonist

DOWN
1 Goat, esp.
2 Ewe's offspring
3 Lulu
4 Cockatoo
5 Sequence
6 Sweetened
7 Little entrance
8 Hot drink
9 Come into view
10 Prominent person
11 Mart
12 Tony's opponent
13 Gist
21 Staircase part
22 M.H. — (Gist)
25 Fall bloomer
26 Nemo's creator
27 Express
28 Extreme self-satisfaction
29 Hebrew lawgiver
31 Manxton seat
32 Perfume
33 Lawn tool
35 Certain artists
37 Act of exorcism
40 Kentucky college
41 In reserve
42 Like some mutual funds
43 Catchword
45 La — (French explorer)
52 Sky hunter
54 Sousaphone
55 Stagger
56 Cane
57 Shield border
58 Paper quantity
59 Bounce over water
62 Like some wit

Hata begs parliament for time

TOKYO (R) — Tsutomu Hata, Japan's new minority prime minister, made a desperate appeal to parliament Tuesday to save political reforms enacted this year but now in jeopardy because of the real threat of snap elections.

In his first policy speech, Mr. Hata urged a belligerent opposition to support his weak government long enough to set up a new electoral system, centerpiece of an anti-corruption reform package approved in January after five years of preparation.

"We cannot allow the steady flame of political reform to be extinguished," said an earnest-looking Hata. "I am determined to continue to pursue it as an issue of the highest priority."

The 58-year-old Hata, head of Japan's first minority government since 1955, said he planned soon to submit legislation to redraw the electoral map.

That would pave the way for elections for new single-seat districts, reducing the need for the lavish campaign spending that is seen as the root cause of rampant political graft.

"The new cabinet... will promptly submit the related (redistricting) bills to parliament and will strive to enact them as early as possible so that the next general election can be held under the new system," Mr. Hata said.

It is generally accepted that elections under the old multi-seat system would be tantamount to erasing the reforms.

The two largest opposition groups — the once-ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and the Socialist Party — have already said they reserve the right to topple Mr. Hata by submitting a no-confidence motion after parliament passes the 1994/95 state budget, due to have gone into effect on April 1.

Mr. Hata took over as prime minister from Morihiro Hosokawa, who resigned on April 8 over a personal loan scandal. That development sparked a crisis in the then-majority coalition, which battled for three weeks over policies and personalities before agreeing to support Mr. Hata for the leadership post.

Just hours after parliament approved his appointment the Socialists, the largest coalition partner, defected and stripped the new prime minister of his ruling majority.

Mr. Hata finally formed a minority cabinet on April 28 after failing to lure back the Socialists, only to be hit with a new crisis — the resignation of a cabinet minister over controversial remarks about World War II which infuriated Asian neighbors.

"I would... like to take this opportunity to renew the recognition that Japan's past actions, including aggression and colonial rule, caused unbearable suffering and sorrow for many people," Mr. Hata said in his policy speech.

Justice Minister Shigeto Nagano had sparked outrage in China and South Korea by denying in an interview that Japan was a wartime aggressor or that the 1937 rape of Nanjing (Nanking), in which tens of thousands of Chinese civilians were murdered, really took place.

Mr. Hata promised the state would teach future Japanese generations the facts of their country's war crimes.

The Nagano affair reflected badly on Mr. Hata. The LDP and the Socialists said they would now demand that he publicly explain how he came to appoint the unrepentant World War II veteran and post-war army chief of staff to the cabinet.

Mr. Hata, seeking to allay revived suspicions about a possible resurgence of Japanese militarism, promised Asian countries Tuesday that Tokyo was deeply committed to the path of peace.

The Foreign Ministry said Mr. Hata would send a message to Chinese Premier Li Peng, South Korean President Kim Young-Sam and other Asian and European governments, apologising for Mr. Nagano's "regrettable" remarks.

The prime minister told parliament the Nagano incident had shown that, almost 50 years after the war's end, "great scars remain even today in the hearts of the peoples of neighbouring countries."

Pledging to communicate the solemn admission to future generations, Mr. Hata added: "The path which Japan must take, based on its deep remorse, is to do its utmost towards the creation of peace and towards the construction of a bright future for the Asia-Pacific region."

U.N. reports Muslim buildup near Sarajevo

SARAJEVO (R) — Bosnian government forces have deployed artillery and troops in a demilitarised zone of Mount Igman south of Sarajevo, U.N. peacekeepers said Tuesday.

The Bosnian Serb Army (BSA) complained to the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) last week that it feared attack from the strategic Muslim hill.

The United Nations angered the Muslim-led Bosnian government and the United States when it allowed six BSA tanks to cross the weapons-exclusion zone around Sarajevo to bolster Serb defences near Igman.

UNPROFOR spokesman Eric Chaperon told reporters: "There is reinforcement of artillery and troops by the (government) side but we don't have any indication of their intentions for the moment."

U.N. sources were also alarmed by increased fighting between Muslim and Serb forces north of Sarajevo in towns on the southern rim of the important Muslim-held Tuzla enclave.

They said this was the likeliest theatre for the next round of fighting in the two-year-old

civil war which the Muslims appeared determined to continue despite the Serbs' military superiority.

The sources said the town of Vares, Kladanj and Olovo, which lie on the main road to Tuzla from Muslim possessions in central Bosnia, were volatile with modest Muslim offensives and Serb shelling of the route.

U.N. peacekeepers now believe that reports of an impending battle between Muslims and Serbs around Brcko for possession of a Serb-held corridor across northern Bosnia were a diversion from the activity closer to Sarajevo.

The impression has been reinforced by the Serb decision to allow U.N. military observers into the area, unlikely if a big offensive were imminent.

Maj. Chaperon said the U.N. was still trying to persuade the Bosnian Serbs to withdraw up to 150 soldiers wearing police uniforms from a three kilometre exclusion zone around the Muslim town of Gorazde east of Sarajevo.

The "police" have remained since the withdrawal of BSA heavy weapons from the U.N.-designated "safe area" after the United Nations, backed by

the threat of air strikes, negotiated a ceasefire.

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic promised last week that the "police" would leave but Maj. Chaperon said: "We don't know when the withdrawal will take place."

The commander of U.N. peacekeeping troops in Gorazde said he believed the Serbs were still hiding heavy weapons in a broader 20-kilometre exclusion zone around it despite a government refusal to take part in peace talks until they leave.

The United Nations reported fighting Monday in the northwestern Bihać pocket between Bosnian government forces and Muslim fighters loyal to breakaway leader Fikret Abdic who is backed by Serbs.

Military observers said both sides suffered casualties in heavy exchanges of mortar, machinegun and small-arms fire.

Meanwhile, the Croatian News Agency (HINA) said Tuesday the European Union will take over administration of the divided southern Bosnian city of Mostar in June.

Rwanda rebels advance on Kigali; U.N. soldier killed

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Rebels advanced steadily in Rwanda's capital Tuesday in fierce, close-quarter combat that appeared to be street-to-street in some parts of Kigali.

It appeared the capital would fall in a matter of days to rebels who are encircling government positions around Kigali and pushing deeper into the city centre, said a U.N. official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Rebels were gaining ground with infantry assaults behind punishing barrages of heavy artillery and mortar fire.

"There was a heavy exchange of artillery and mortar fire overnight and this morning," U.N. spokesman Abdul Kabia said by telephone from Kigali.

The intense shelling from both sides blocked delivery of food and water to thousands of refugees living under U.N. protection because of the month-long bloodbath in Rwanda between majority Hutu and minority Tutsi.

The mainly Tutsi rebels also continued to advance Tuesday on Ruhengeri, 45 miles (65 kilometres) northwest of Kigali despite stiff resistance by Hutu-led government troops.

The U.N. official said rebels have taken Bugezera, 15 miles (25 kilometres) southeast of Kigali, and the insurgent drive toward the south appears to have stalled while they consolidate their gains.

A Ghanaian U.N. soldier was killed Monday by a mortar round that hit the National Stadium where 3,000 displaced people are sheltered by the United Nations.

Mr. Kabia said another round slammed into the civilian Kigali hospital. He said the U.N. did not yet know how many were killed or injured by the blast.

Rebels lobbed mortar round

after mortar round into Kanombe camp, where three heavily armed battalions of government troops were in danger of being encircled and cut off.

Mr. Kabia said an ammunition dump at the camp was hit and heavily damaged in thunderous explosions.

Brig. Gen. Romeo Dallaire, the Canadian U.N. force commander, scheduled meetings with both sides Tuesday to discuss terms for a ceasefire.

"There is hope for a ceasefire, but not immediately," said Mr. Kabia.

The rebels have said they will fight on to oust what they consider an illegal government and to end the ethnic massacre in government and militia controlled territory.

Militiamen, who are responsible for much of the ethnic butchery, still control sections of the capital.

An estimated 100,000 to 200,000 people have been killed in Rwanda, most of them civilians slaughtered because of their Hutu or Tutsi ethnicity, according to the United Nations and aid groups. About 1.3 million people have fled their homes.

The fighting and massacres began after the presidents of Rwanda and neighbouring Burundi, both Hutus, died in a suspicious plane crash at Kigali on April 6.

Mr. Kabia said the chief of staff of the Tanzanian Armed Forces, Gen. Robert Mbona, warned both sides in the Rwandan conflict Monday that any movement into Tanzania or any effort to damage the bridge linking the two countries at Rusumo Falls would be considered an act of war.

About a quarter of a million Rwandan refugees fled across that bridge in 24 hours late last month to escape the savagery in Rwanda.

Balladur differs from Mitterrand on nuclear weapons

PARIS (R) — Prime Minister Edouard Balladur, distancing himself from President Francois Mitterrand, said Tuesday that France would not sign a nuclear test ban treaty as long as it felt a need to carry out new weapons tests.

"We will not sign any final test ban as long as we feel (further) tests are essential to the technical credibility of our nuclear deterrent force," Mr. Balladur told students at the National Defence Studies Institute.

Mr. Mitterrand suspended underground nuclear tests at the South Pacific Mururoa Atoll in April 1992. The United States, Russia and Britain have since followed suit.

The Socialist president, whose term expires next year, said last week there would be no new nuclear tests as long as he was in office and predicted that world opinion would prevent his successors from resuming blasts.

Mr. Balladur, a conservative Gaullist, said France would only sign a test ban treaty if all countries believed to have nuclear weapons or the capacity to produce them signed along with the recognised nuclear powers — the United States, Russia, China, Britain and France.

He gave no examples but appeared to be referring to countries such as Israel, India, Pakistan and South Africa.

Mr. Balladur said France wanted to halt nuclear proliferation and favoured a test ban in the future but that the ban must "concern all and be internationally verifiable."

A possible resumption of tests was not incompatible with French participation in negotiations, due to start shortly in Geneva, to draw up a test ban treaty, he said.

Mr. Balladur said France opposed linking a test ban treaty to the signing of a new non-proliferation treaty next year as the United States would prefer.



A Nordic Battalion UNPROFOR soldier adjusts his radio headset as his Leopard tank crew prepares for a reconnaissance patrol at their base near Tuzla (AFP photo)

Baker: Clinton administration is uncomfortable with American power

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former Secretary of State James A. Baker III described the Clinton administration Monday as "uncomfortable with the concept of American power" and said its foreign policy was damaging U.S. credibility in the world.

Criticising administration policy toward Bosnia, Haiti and Somalia, Mr. Baker also said the administration had presided over a decline in U.S. influence within NATO.

His wide-ranging critique of the Clinton foreign policy was made in a speech at the Woodrow Wilson International Centre for Scholars.

Mr. Baker said he is "thinking long and hard" about seeking the Republican nomination to challenge Mr. Clinton in 1996.

Mr. Baker said the end of the cold war has given the United States an opportunity to "engage selectively" around the world.

In doing so, he said, it must "assess our interests and seek policies that are proportionate to them."

"We must choose the appropriate instrumentality, multilateral or unilateral, to pursue those policies. And, above all, we should husband the most important of intangibles, our credibility in the service of our national interests."

Mr. Baker went on to say that the current administration "by missteps in Haiti and Somalia, a diminution of American influence within NATO and a 'stop and go' policy towards Bosnia that can only charitably be labeled 'confused,' has called that credibility into doubt."

He said that "the impression today is inescapable: The nation's leadership is fundamentally uncomfortable with the concept of American power."

He criticised both the Clinton administration and his fellow Republicans for their differing responses to developments in the former Soviet Union.

"The Western response to developments in the former Communist bloc has been mixed at best and marked, in

the United States and elsewhere, by near manic-depressive swings between optimism and gloom," he said.

Saying that response was particularly true in the case of Russia, Mr. Baker said many in the Clinton administration "seem prepared to countenance any Russian backsliding at home or bellicosity abroad for fear of provoking a reaction from the Russian right."

As for Republicans, Mr. Baker said some "have seized on the recent U.S.-Russian spy scandal to call, not just for a termination of aid to Russia, but, at least by inference, for creation of a new anti-Russian alliance."

Mr. Baker said the former point of view was naive and the latter premature.

He called for immediate admission of Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic into NATO and said the more gradual approach of the administration's partnership for peace was "at best, a halfhearted response" to applications from former Soviet bloc nations to join the alliance.

Clinton deplores constant character attacks

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bill Clinton is urging Americans to defer judgment on questions about his character, contending he's the target of the "constant politics of diversion and division and destruction."

"I think I've been subject to more assault than any president," Mr. Clinton said Monday night at a "town-hall" meeting in Rhode Island. "But we'll have an election in 1996, and I wish that we could just settle down and be Americans, for a while and work on our problems, and then evaluate me based on the job I do."

Mr. Clinton was responding to a woman who asked if he felt he was being held to a higher standard than previous U.S. presidential families.

Mr. Clinton's leadership on foreign affairs is under intense criticism. His problems have been exacerbated with a lawsuit by a former Arkansas state employee alleging sexual harassment and the continuing saga of the real estate investment he made in the White House venture in Arkansas in 1978.

Mr. Clinton faced questions from a friendly audience on a broad spectrum of topics in the hour-long town-hall meeting in Cranston, R.I.

The president said Vice President Al Gore told him recently that "there are powerful forces in this country who basically resent the way the last election came out, so they keep trying to undo it and

pretend it didn't happen."

He deplored "the constant politics of diversion and division and destruction" but said he was prepared to live with it. "So far, it has not interfered with the progress and the record of the Congress and the work we're trying to do for the country," Mr. Clinton said.

The president was put on the spot with a "how would you feel?" question if his wife were to run for president in the year 2000 when he would finish a second term.

"Let me say that I'm sure my wife would be flattered by your attention," Mr. Clinton replied. "But she has always told me that she never thought she would ever seek elected office."

U.S. seeks peacekeepers for Haiti

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States is seeking international peacekeepers for Haiti once that country's military leaders have left but also has not abandoned the option of using force to dislodge the ruling junta.

President Bill Clinton has instructed U.S. diplomats at the United Nations and the Organisation of American States (OAS) to sound out other countries in the Western hemisphere about joining the United States in a peacekeeping mission. The idea was broached with Canada Monday.

No decision had been made on how large the force should

be. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said Monday, although administration sources said it would be better armed and have a broader mission than the advance party of a U.N. force that tried to land in Haiti last October and turned back to avoid an angry mob on the dock.

The presence of peacekeepers would ensure that the return of exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, ousted in a 1991 coup, and the restoration of democracy would be "peaceful and positive," Mr. Christopher said during an official visit to Mexico.

The secretary warned Haiti's

military leaders that if they failed to step down by May 21 as required by a U.N. ultimatum, they would find that the international community has "both the will and the means to make them pay the price."

Both Madeleine Albright, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations and Samuel Berger, the deputy national security adviser, kept alive the prospect of possible military action to remove Haiti's generals from power.

"We have not reached that fork in the road yet. We have not ruled it out," Mr. Berger said on the ABC Television programme Nightline.

Main European leaders face acid test in EU polls

PARIS (AFP) — Leaders of at least four major European countries will face the acid test of their government's popularity in next month's European Parliament elections with results likely to reflect domestic political woes.

Britain, France, Germany and Italy make up 255 million inhabitants out of a total 347 million in the 12-nation European Union, holding 360 out of the 567 seats in the expanded European Parliament to be elected next June 9 and 12.

But while the Euro-polls could produce a protest vote in major countries such as Britain and Germany, as well as in Spain whose Socialist government has been rocked by a corruption scandal, they could also be affected by the after-shocks from the Maastricht Treaty on European Union.

In France, where the Yes vote on Maastricht just scraped through in a referendum in September 1992, several parties on the right and on the left are campaigning on an anti-Maastricht platform ahead of the European vote.

And in Germany, political leaders are turning their backs on European federalism and the dream of a "United States of Europe."

Britain's ruling Conservative Party, deeply split over its attitude to Europe, was thrashed in local elections last week and the expected similar performance on June 9 will make Prime Minister John Major's job look very shaky.

In Germany, Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democratic Union-Christian Social Union alliance is midway through a punishing series of regional polls ahead of a general election in October.

Mr. Kohl has seen the Social Democratic Party make political gains and the opposition continues to ride high in opinion polls. But the right-wing government has also suffered from competition from the far-right and the declining popularity of his coalition ally, the Free Democratic Party (FDP).

In Italy, the European polls come after the post-war political establishment was crushed by Silvio Berlusconi's right-wing alliance which came to power after March general elections.

The European poll will consequently be the first electoral test for Mr. Berlusconi who has had an uphill struggle putting together a government in the month since he won the elections, amid a post-election rift with his allies.

The Italian media magnate's European platform is vague and based on ultra-liberal economic principles, but the possible make-up of his government and the Euro-MPs Italian voters might return has already caused trouble in Strasbourg.

The European parliament demanded last week that member states advise President Oscar Scalfaro that the next Rome government be faithful to European Community principles.

The Socialist group in the Strasbourg parliament also warned that it would expel any deputy backing Mr. Berlusconi's Forza Italia party and his neo-fascist allies, in addition to "refusing all cooperation within the framework of European

institutions with neo-fascist ministers" in the Italian government.

In France, next month's elections are seen as a judgement on the ruling right-wing coalition than as a political indicator ahead of next year's presidential election.

The main right-wing leaders with presidential aspirations have remained above the fray and the conservative Rally For the Republic (RPR) and centre-right Union for French Democracy have a combined list led by the mayor of Toulouse, Dominique Baudis, a political lightweight.

With Prime Minister Edouard Balladur dipping in opinion polls, his main right-wing rival Jacques Chirac, the RPR leader and mayor of Paris who does not hold a government post, could exploit a poor result in the European poll.

Reporter files \$171m police brutality lawsuit

WASHINGTON (AP) — A reporter for the Washington Post filed a \$171 million lawsuit against the District of Columbia government and Police Department Monday, alleging two police officers injured him and violated his constitutional right to gather news. In documents filed in U.S. District Court, Brian Moar said the officers roughed him up while he was taking pictures of a woman the officers had handcuffed to a mailbox after stopping her on a drunken-driving charge before dawn last Dec. 18. Mr. Moar, who happened by the scene, said that when he stopped to take pictures, the officers tried to take his camera away from him, injuring his neck in the ensuing scuffle, the lawsuit said. Mr. Moar got his camera back when a police sergeant arrived, and told the officers to return it. The photographs and an accompanying story appeared on the front page of the Post the next day. The lawsuit seeks \$30 million in compensatory damages and \$141 million in punitive damages. Mr. Moar's Attorney, G. Allen Dale, said the case is important because it concerns the constitutional right of reporters to gather information. The reporter contended that, because both he and the woman were on public property, he was free to take photographs.

Miss Universe contestants hit by flu

MANILA (R) — Twenty-one Miss Universe candidates missed a meeting with Philippine President Fidel Ramos because they had flu, organisers said Tuesday. "They caught the virus," pageant spokeswoman Kellie Totten said, explaining why the 21 missed the Monday afternoon reception at Malacañang Presidential Palace. Filipino organisers said Manila's humid summer heat and hectic rounds of rehearsals, photo sessions and other activities had taken a toll on some of the May 21 contest's 77 candidates. "Every day it's like there's too much to do. It's crazy," a Manila newspaper quoted Miss Ireland Patricia Flood, 22, as saying. "The best part is going to bed while the worst part is getting up."

Mother 'fries' son's bottom on stove

HARARE (R) — A Zimbabwean mother was jailed for a year after she severely burnt a 10-year-old boy's bottom on an electric stove, a local newspaper reported Tuesday. The Herald said Sarudzai Msona, 30, was found guilty of contravening a children's protection and adoption law when she grabbed her stepson and placed him on a red hot stove.

Berlin police chief's car stolen

BERLIN (AP) — Police Chief Hergen Saberschnitz joined the long list of crime victims during the weekend when a thief got away with his Mercedes. The Police Department, which registered 28,888 vehicle thefts in 1993, said Monday that Mr. Saberschnitz's official car was stolen Saturday while the driver ran an errand and left the locked car on a busy shopping street in West Berlin. The blue Mercedes, equipped with radio telephone and police radio, could have been in Poland, only 100 kilometres (60 miles) away, in a few hours if the thief was using what police say is a common method of disposing of stolen cars.

Munch lithographs found in Nietzsche archives

WEIMAR, Germany (AFP) — Three unknown lithographs by the Norwegian artist Edvard Munch, whose stolen painting The Scream was recovered by police last week, have been found here, the Weimarer Klassik Foundation said. They were discovered in archives relating to Friedrich Nietzsche, and one of the lithographs, executed by Munch when he was in Weimar from 1905 to 1906, is a posthumous portrait of the philosopher. The others are a self-portrait done by Munch in 1895 and a portrait of the architect Henry Van De Velde dating from 1906. The archives belonged to Nietzsche's sister, Elisabeth Forster-Nietzsche, and had been kept secret by the former East German authorities. The foundation said it expected other significant discoveries, which should be completed by the centenary of Nietzsche's death in 2000.

Al Jazireh is on the verge of clinching U-22 basketball title

By Aileen Bannay
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Al Jazireh are now on the verge of securing the first of the season's basketball titles after their astonishing 82-66 win over Al Ahli in the first leg of the final round of the under-22 basketball competition — the first of the season's 12 events organised by the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF).

In another match, Al Abbas overcame Al Jalil 78-74 to clinch third place for now. However, final standings of the top four teams will be decided after the remaining six matches of the second leg before the competition is concluded May 15.

Al Jazireh's win ended Al Ahli's unbeaten record in the tournament in which nine teams took part: Al Ahli, Al Abbas, Yarmouk, Homentmen, Abu Nusair, Al Jazireh, Al Jalil, Gazet Hashem and Al Watani. Only the top four teams qualified to the final round.

While Al Jazireh's victory was not a big surprise, a win by such a wide margin was not expected.

Al Ahli had a very easy way to the final round scoring impressive and convincing victories of 125-71 over Al Yarmouk; 160-43 over Abu Nusair; 140-55 over Homentmen and 98-65 over Al Abbas. Al Jazireh had a more difficult path overcoming Al Watani 91-62; Al Jalil 84-75 and Gazet Hashem 116-36.

In their most recent matches of the final round, Al Jazireh scored an impressive 109-47 (57-19) win over Al Jalil and beat Al Abbas 62-56 (40-28). Meanwhile, Al Ahli defeated Al Jalil 91-47 (51-22), and Al Abbas 91-55 (57-29).

Al Jazireh's ambitious team, led by Ghazi Ennabi and new recruit Naser Alawneh, managed to surprise Al Ahli and took control of the match by applying a tight, full-court defence that enabled them to

lead 16-6 and limited their opponent's scoring ability. Al Ahli's well experienced players, including Mohammad and Taimour Shamali, Ramez Hammoudeh, Wisam Nino, Zeid Alkhas, Faisal Ensour and Riyad Ayesh, appeared at a loss as they were expecting to continue their unbeaten streak.

Al Jazireh ended the first half 39-23 and continued to lead despite Al Ahli's ability to lessen the gap taking advantage of Al Jazireh's looser defence after being hampered by many fouls.

In the other match, Al Abbas turned their first half loss to a precious 4-point victory to take third place for now.

Al Jalil led 13-7 and 22-11 before winning the first half 41-35. However, Al Abbas took advantage of their opponents' many personal fouls as Ashraf Samara, Tareq Najjar and Iyad Zalazimo led their team and drew 59-59 early in the second half and continued to take the lead and win the match.

The second leg of the competition begins today when Al Jalil take on Al Ahli and Al Abbas meet Al Jazireh.

The top four teams each have a goal in mind as they start the 1994 basketball season.

Abbas, formerly a lowly second division club, qualified to the final round after losing only to Al Ahli. Their young team has been playing with greater confidence since they beat Al Orthodoxi to clinch third place in the 1993 U-19 competition back in January. The team will play in the second division this year where they hope to be able to overcome competition from Al Yarmouk and others and be

promoted to the first division. Al Jalil, a usual third place finisher in the first division, ended up fourth last year. They will attempt to keep an advanced standing in the season's competitions.

Al Jazireh will again attempt to clinch the most titles. Last year they won the boys U-14 and U-16 titles, finished second in the U-19 competition, third in the first division and won the women's championship.

Al Ahli, now the Kingdom's champion after ending Al Orthodoxi's decade-long reign in the eighties are attempting to strengthen their younger lineup of players to retain the title for many years to come. U-22 titleholders Al Orthodoxi who won the last championship in 1992 opted not to participate this year.

First division teams are required to compete in at least two age groups, while second division teams in only one age group.

The JBF is now trying to upgrade competition and re-classify clubs. This year the first division includes only seven teams: Al Ahli, Al Orthodoxi, Jazireh, Jalil, Watani, Hussein, and Homentmen.

Two teams will be relegated in 1994 and only one team will be promoted from the second division making the total number of teams only six in 1995 compared to eight until 1993.

The JBF's next scheduled event will be an open basketball tournament for women's teams during the Eid Al Adha holiday. Although the number of women's teams has increased this season, only champions Al Jazireh, runners-up Al Orthodoxi, Al Ahli, and Abu Nusair have confirmed participation, while Homentmen, Al Watani and Al Husun seem yet undecided.

STANDINGS

Team	P	W	L	SF	SA	Pts.
Jazireh	3	3	—	273	169	6
Ahli	3	2	1	248	184	5
Abbas	3	1	2	189	247	4
Jalil	3	—	3	168	278	3

Charlton enters Asian soccer politics

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — English soccer legend Bobby Charlton dipped into the rough-and-tumble world of Asian football Tadao Murata, for Friday's Asian Football Confederation (AFC) election for the post of FIFA vice-president.

"I have found it to be absolutely phenomenal dealing

with the Japanese over their World Cup campaign and so I have no doubt that Murata is the right man for the post," said Charlton, who is also a paid consultant with the Japanese campaign to host the 2002 World Cup.

"I am not afraid of getting involved in politics because, unfortunately, football needs

politics to a certain extent," said Charlton, a member of England's 1966 World Cup-winning team. Murata, head of Japan's 2002 bidding committee, faces Sheikh Ahmad Fahad of Kuwait, Qatar's Mohammad Bin Hammam and Korean Chung Moon-Jung, in one of the most tightly-contested campaigns in recent AFC history.

Like Murata, Chung is using the ballot as a means of pressing Korea's own case to host the 2002 World Cup, which adds an element of tension to an already tight race. Korean delegates to the AFC's congress here, which will vote on the issue Friday, dismissed Charlton's endorsement Tuesday as too little too late.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSH
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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A96 ♣AKJ8 ♢QJ982 ♠Void

What is your opening bid?

A.—If you play natural forcing two-bids, we have no objection to your opening this hand with two diamonds. However, if you employ two clubs as an artificial game force, the auction could prove awkward after almost any response from partner. We would settle for a somewhat conservative opening bid of one diamond, intending to bid as strongly as possible thereafter.

Q.2—East-South vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠AK74 ♣9863 ♢J ♠A932

Partner opens the bidding with one diamond. What do you respond?

A.—Despite the great disparity in the quality of your four-card majors, it is correct to bid up the line and show your hearts first. Should you choose one spade, you run the risk either of missing a 4-4 heart fit or landing in a 4-2 spade fit.

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠QJ4 ♣10954 ♢7 ♠K10954

The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ 1 NT ?

What action do you take?

A.—Certainly the balance of power appears to be with the enemy and your length in clubs depreciates your side's defensive prospects should West correct to a suit contract. Our choice would be a jump to three clubs, a preemptive action. With a good hand we would have doubled one no trump.

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠AJ2 ♣A10 ♢AK982 ♠Q64

The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ 1 ♣ ?

What action do you take?

A.—Since partner might have been forced to respond one spade with a four-card suit, you can't very well bid four spades on your own. The correct action is to double again. That shows a very good hand and denies four spades. Leave the final decision to partner.

Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠AQ10542 ♣J ♢Q8852 ♠2

The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ ?

What do you bid now?

A.—Your broken six-card suit is not the stuff with which to make an invitational jump, especially since there's always the possibility that partner has only a singleton heart. Bid two hearts. If partner is unable to move toward game, it is extremely unlikely that one exists.

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠J8 ♣AJ9842 ♢QK4 ♠A4

The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass 1 NT ?

What do you bid now?

A.—Your broken six-card suit is not the stuff with which to make an invitational jump, especially since there's always the possibility that partner has only a singleton heart. Bid two hearts. If partner is unable to move toward game, it is extremely unlikely that one exists.



Brazilian soccer player Romario (centre), who plays for Barcelona, kisses his father Edvair Farias who was kidnapped May 2 and released

May 8. Romario's mother is at right (AFP photo)

Ferrari stands by Berger

MARANELLO, Italy (R) — The Ferrari team Tuesday said it was standing fully behind driver Gerhard Berger, who is reviewing his future in Formula One following the deaths of Ayrton Senna and Roland Ratzenberger.

A team spokesman said the Austrian would announce a decision at a news conference Wednesday afternoon in Monaco, where the next Grand Prix will be raced Sunday.

"We know that whatever decision Gerhard takes will be the right one for him and the right one for Ferrari," the spokesman said. "Berger will be free to choose what he wants to do." He said Berger, a close friend of Senna and fellow Austrian Ratzenberger, had felt their deaths "more than anyone else" in Formula One.

Hill slams F1 bosses

LONDON (AFP) — Damon Hill, Formula One teammate of the late Ayrton Senna at Williams-Renault, has fiercely criticised motor racing officials in a call for greater protection for drivers.

Hill said the Brazilian, who died after crashing in last week's San Marino Grand Prix, had been at the forefront of the drivers' battle for greater safety.

But Hill added: "To try to get across points of safety to men in blazers, many of whom have never sat in a racing car and, at any rate, could never possibly conceive what it is really like to be doing 200mph on a narrow strip of asphalt between two concrete walls chased by 25 other cars, must have been to him a bit like explaining the idea of democracy to Stalin."

And he insisted: "I personally believe that the ultimate responsibility for all aspects of safety in the sport rests with the organising bodies."

"Drivers will drive in the most perilous conditions because competition is stupendously fierce and there are any number of hopefuls ready to jump into the void."

The Englishman, who will drive alone for Williams-Renault at next weekend's Monaco Grand Prix as a mark of respect for Senna, said it was a misconception that racing drivers were daredevils and gamblers.

Writing in the Daily Mail newspaper, he said: "A truly professional driver will have taken great, great care over every aspect of safety."

"Safety is boring and expensive. But now we live in a world that is less tolerant of the waste of life, thank God."

"Legislation is needed to save us from ourselves."

Hill said that the structural integrity of the cars, which are raced at speeds topping 200mph, was such that drivers were unable to survive the shock of a crash which can leave the car intact.



Rudi Voeller

Voeller returns to World Cup

HAMBURG (R) — Germany coach Berti Vogts, who has been struggling to find in-form strikers, has called veteran forward Rudi Voeller out of retirement from international soccer to play in the World Cup finals.

The 34-year-old Marseille striker, who has not played for the world champions for two seasons, was named in Vogts's provisional 20-man party for the finals in the United States in June and July.

Voeller, who has 85 caps and 44 international goals to his name, played his last game in a German shirt in October 1992.

He is the oldest player in the experienced squad which has an average age of 28 and includes nine of the players who contested the 1990 final against Argentina in Rome.

Horse racing still lacking for exciting thoroughbred

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Barely 12 hours after the Kentucky Derby had unmasked Holy Bull as yet one more Triple Crown pretender, rival trainer D. Wayne Lukas peered out from under the bill of a baseball cap pulled low, laughed ruefully and said they don't make thoroughbreds like they used to. If only he were kidding.

No game, save tennis perhaps, needs a superstar as badly as horse racing. But after a wet track and a flat-footed start conspired to trip up the heavily favoured grey in Saturday's most recent run for the roses, it was clear the wait would not end with this crop of 3-year-olds.

Go for Gin, a modest bay colt with the talent to match, stole the front-running trip that was supposed to have been Holy Bull's and the headlines that went along with it. The 2-1 favourite, Bull finished a nearly forgotten 12th.

"How long has it been since a horse came along that made a splash, a real splash?" repeated Lukas, who won his only Derby in 1988 with the Filly Winning Colours and sent Tabasco Cat out to a disappointing sixth-place finish on this go-round.

"Secretariat," he said without waiting for an answer. "1973."

"He was so big, so good at drawing attention to himself...at firing up the public's imagination that he was on the cover of Time. Who knows when — or if — our sport will see something like that again."

A few moments later, not far from Lukas' barn, a few partisans tried to come up with an answer on this fast-warming Sunday morning.

"Forget Time magazine," one of them said finally. "When was the last time a Kentucky Derby horse even made the cover of Sports Illustrated? I won't swear to it, but

I think it was Gato Del Sol in 1982."

By now, even casual followers of the racket know it has been 15 years since the favourite — Spectacular Bid in 1979 — won the Derby. And one year longer than that since Affirmed beat Alydar in the Derby and twice more in the ensuing five weeks to wrap up one of the best-ever rivalries in American sport by laying claim to the Triple Crown.

During that stretch, a few colts have raised the sport's pulse heading into the Derby, and a few others have produced heart-pounding wins late in the afternoon on the first Saturday in May. But they have lacked either the drawing power or the staying power necessary to build on a following that Lukas said was already so committed "that they'd come out even if we start racing camels."

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Sulayem bids for 5th Jordan Rally victory

AMMAN (J.T.) — Dubai's Mohammad Bin Sulayem faces one of the sternest tests of his Middle East rallying career as he starts this week's two-day Jordan International Rally. Four-time winner Sulayem, who has just returned from the Tour of Corsica round of the World Rally Championship, scans the entry list and sees his greatest rival starting immediately behind him.

Sheikh Suhail Bin Khalifa Al Maktoum, already a winner of the recent Qatar Rally and leader of the 1994 Middle East Rally Championship, is the only driver to consistently match Mohammad's turn of speed and Khalifa is confident that his Toyota can beat the six-times Middle East Championship's Ford Escort RS Cosworth over the 23 special stages which make up this year's event.

Taking place over both asphalt and gravel surfaces, the Jordan International Rally is a candidate for future inclusion in the World Rally Championship and onlookers should witness a furious battle between Sulayem, Khalifa, Richie Holtfield in the British-prepared Ford Escort and Khalifa's teammate Khalifa Al Motairi in a second Toyota Celica. Motairi is partnered by Britain's Dave Nicholson, who won the Middle East co-drivers' title two years ago with Saudi Arabia's Mamdouh Khayat.

The event will also mark a first for Sulayem: Long time co-driver Roman Morgan is attending a family wedding in Ireland and Mohammad will be partnered by Britain's Philip Mills for the first time.

"We're delighted to see such a strong international field making the start of this year's rally," said Derek Ledger, chief executive of the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan (RACJ).

"There are several very good drivers from Europe and many of the Middle East's seasoned campaigners should make this a very close rally."

While Sulayem and his rivals

fight for overall honours, the production car Group N category will be equally as exciting, with the Saudi Arabian duo of Abdullah Bakhshab and Ahmed Al Sabban starting as favourites in their respective Toyota Celica and Ford Escort RS Cosworths.

Attempting to match them, particularly over Thursday's tarmac stages, will be Britain's Graham Middleton (an impressive driver on tarmac in Europe for several years), Jordan's Bashar Bustami, Hans Stacy from the Netherlands and the Belgian, Nicholas Min. Also entered in Group N are former champion Ron Oakley in his trusty Subaru RX Turbo and Dubai-based Peter Cherry in a Mitsubishi Galant VR-4.

One of the most unusual cars on the entry list is the unwieldy Volvo 242 GT, driven by Kuwait-based Lester Featherstonehaugh. A resident of Kuwait since 1980, Lester is the current Kuwaiti national rally champion and fancies his chances on Thursday's tarmac stages, although he admits that the Volvo will not be a match for the four-wheel drive entourage on Friday.

"It may be a big car," said Lester. "But it's great fun to drive and really enjoyable to be tackling this rally in an unusual car. Even though it's two-wheel drive, it's quite easy to control. The only problem is making it stop! We know that it'll be impossible to beat the four-wheel drive cars at the finish, but we intend to have a go."

No less than 12 Jordanian drivers will be hoping of success in their relevant categories: Tarek Tabba, Mahmoud Aleko, 2141S, Mahmoud Komok and Ahmad Al Daoud wheel out a pair of Renault 5 GT Turbos, Hasan Abu Samra drives a Ford Sierra RS Cosworth, while there are a wide variety of cars for Raed Shamoun, Fares Bustami, Rimon Fiefler, Mohammed Al Daoud, Ammar Hijazi, Mahmoud Metwalli, Asem Aref and Zeid Asfour.

Japan body urges entry for Maradona, Caniggia

TOKYO (R) — Japanese soccer's governing body is calling on the country's immigration authorities to allow disgraced Argentine stars Diego Maradona and Claudio Caniggia to play in a three-nation tournament here later this month.

Tournament organisers said Tuesday that the Japan Soccer Association was appealing to the ministries

concerned to issue entry visas to Maradona and Caniggia.

The two players, who have both served bans from the sport recently because of cocaine abuse, are in a 23-man Argentina squad for World Cup warm-up matches.

Japan takes a strict attitude towards foreigners who abuse drugs and in the past has refused visas to people with records of drug offences.

The Konica team arrives in Jordan

KONICA Corporation, the leaders in the photographic field in the Middle East, have now entered the sponsorship of the Middle East Rally 1994.

The Konica team have been busy preparing their Volvo 242 GT for the Jordan International Rally. Lester Featherstonehaugh, driver, and Edgar Speak, co-driver, have participated in the Jordan Rally many times in the past and both admit to it being their favourite out of all the rounds of the Middle East championship. "With the first day on tarmac, and the second on gravel it is a perfect mixture," says Lester.

Salbashian Company, the Konica distributors in Jordan, have welcomed the Konica Rally team saying, "Konica's innovative films, cameras, and processors have always provided excellent results. We hope that our rally team enjoy the same results. Good luck for Jordan and throughout the year."

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Ghali to ask oil firms to trace Iraqi crude

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Secretary-General Boutros Ghali wants to ask oil companies to trace sales of Iraqi crude so that the United Nations receives a 30 per cent cut for its compensation fund for post-Gulf war expenses, according to a letter obtained Monday.

In response, the Security Council was expected to approve a letter Tuesday telling him to check with oil industry sources on any Iraqi crude impounded, sold or used after the first sanctions resolution was adopted Aug. 6, 1990.

Dr. Ghali, in his letter sent last week, said reports from oil industry sources suggested that hundreds of millions of dollars of crude were involved after the sanctions went into effect without any payment into a U.N. escrow fund.

Diplomats said Saudi Arabia after the 1991 Gulf war had sold a considerable amount of oil without heeding U.N. resolutions and that the letter would also serve as a warning to Turkey, which is about to flush its pipeline to Iraq.

The Security Council set up the fund to gain revenues for victims of Iraq's invasion into Kuwait, supply Iraq with humanitarian aid and defray U.N. costs for ridding Baghdad of weapons of mass destruction. But it required that funds from all Iraqi oil sold first be put into an escrow account.

The Geneva-based compensation commission reported that it did not have enough money to pay \$4 million in claims expected to be approved this month and no funds for \$200 million expected to be issued in September.

"I need not underscore the negative effects that this state of affairs will have on the

credibility of the compensation operation (and) on the situation of millions of anxious claimants," he said.

Dr. Ghali said that \$243 million had been deposited in the escrow account by April, of which \$158.59 million came from Iraqi frozen oil assets and the rest from member states.

Turkey, with several million barrels of Iraqi oil in its pipeline, wants to keep 3.8 million barrels it says it is owed by Iraq and use the remaining for its own use but compensate Baghdad with humanitarian supplies.

The United States has already objected to the scheme and the U.N. compensation fund maintains the plan would deprive it of about \$80 million in revenues.

But Turkey maintains it needs revenue to flush the pipeline to prevent it from corrosion and its disposal of the oil is well within sanctions guidelines.

Turkey has indicated that the one-time oil deal was also motivated in part by its severe economic crisis, which follows about \$20 billion in lost revenues because of the interruption of trade with Iraq.

The United States is treading carefully with Turkey, which has been a partner in the coalition against Iraq and has allowed its bases to be used for allied surveillance planes over northern Iraq.

But it is clear Turkey would like to see an easing of the U.N. oil embargo against Iraq once Baghdad complies fully with U.N. arms demands.

France, Russia and China late last year split ranks with the United States on easing the embargo, although Washington, with Britain, as its ally, can block any movement on this issue.

Amnesty accuses S. Arabia of torturing, killing Iraqis

LONDON (AP) — Amnesty International on Tuesday accused authorities in Saudi Arabia of killing and torturing Iraqi refugees and using tanks to quell protests inside camps where they are held unarmed.

It said in a report that hundreds who sought shelter in Saudi Arabia after the 1991 Gulf war have been arbitrarily arrested and killed or forcibly returned to Iraq in the past three years, sometimes in alleged connivance with Iraqi intelligence agents.

The London-based human rights group said collective punishments for protests about living conditions and bad treatment by camp authorities include denying refugees food and water.

"Available evidence indicates that the Saudi Arabian government has turned a blind eye to torture and ill-treatment and has allowed it to take place with impunity," it said.

"Protests and marches inside the camps have been met with tanks and soldiers firing indiscriminately into crowds of refugees," it added.

It said those held at camps at Rafha and Artawiya, both in northwest Saudi Arabia near the Iraqi border, were subject to human rights abuses for protesting living conditions, criticizing camp authorities, disobedience or to extract confessions.

But it said that following condemnation by international non-governmental organisations, authorities improved some living conditions and stated they had invested in new facilities. The Artawiya camp was closed in December 1992, the report said.

Amnesty said some 23,000 Iraqi refugees were in Saudi Arabia as of last month. Some are former members of the Iraqi armed forces who surrendered to the allies at the end of the Gulf war and refused repatriation. The United States,

Saudi Arabia and their allies fought the war to expel invading Iraqi forces from Kuwait.

It said others are civilians who fled southern Iraq when Iraqi forces crushed a rebellion that erupted there in March 1991 shortly after the Gulf war.

The report said amnesty welcomed the decision by Saudi Arabia to grant temporary shelter to Iraqi refugees but has documented numerous cases of gross violations.

"In one incident in March 1993, at least nine refugees in Rafha camp may have been extrajudicially executed by soldiers in violence sparked by a protest against the Saudi Arabian authorities' refusal to grant asylum to an Iraqi family fleeing southern Iraq," it said.

"One of the nine victims, Jabbar Mohammad Al Etaym, was reportedly shot at point blank range by a guard and died instantly."

It said four Saudi Arabian nationals also died in that incident after being trapped in the camp's educational centre which the refugees had set on fire.

It said more than 400 refugees were arrested after that incident and that 39 are believed still held without trial in Ar'ar prison without access to lawyers or their families.

The report said Saudi Arabian authorities have forcibly returned hundreds of refugees to Iraq where they risk arrest, torture or execution.

"In most cases, forcible return was used to punish individuals accused of criminal offenses as well as those deemed by the camp authorities to be trouble-makers," the report said.

"This practice has also been used to suppress all forms of criticism and protest by the refugees ... in other cases, forcible return allegedly resulted from connivance between some camp authorities and Iraqi intelligence agents," it said.

Mandela sworn in as president

(Continued from page 1)

secure Pretoria for the transition.

Standing behind a screen with deputy presidents Thabo Mbeki and De Klerk, the former white president, Mr. Mandela said the three had forgotten their differences.

"We are now busy healing the wounds of the past and it is for you to support us in that task," Mr. Mandela said.

The ANC won a landslide victory in the country's first election to include the black majority April 26-29, and the new 400-member multiracial parliament chose him president, unopposed, at its first session Monday.

Mr. Mandela's swearing in marked something more than

an inauguration — it is the coming out party for South Africa after decades of isolation. Representatives of more than 200 governments and organisations, who five years ago would either have been banned from visiting or would not have considered it, attended.

Among them was U.S. Vice President Al Gore, who called the event "a celebration for the entire world." He was accompanied by U.S. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Also in the audience were U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat, and Cuban leader Fidel Castro.



FROM PRISON TO PRESIDENCY: Nelson Mandela salutes the crowd at his inauguration Tuesday as South Africa's first democratically elected president as his daughter, Zinzi, looks on (see story on page one) (AFP photo)

Libyan caravan treks towards Mecca to protest U.N. sanctions

CAIRO (AP) — The scene beside the great pyramids could have come from an ancient storybook: Pilgrims in desert robes on route by camel caravan to Islam's holy sites in Saudi Arabia.

But it quickly shifted to the 20th century on Monday when journalists approached the encampment.

Some 320 Libyans, including about 20 women, say they are heading by camel to the annual pilgrimage to protest U.N. sanctions imposed on their country over the 1988 Pan Am 103 bombing.

"Despite the embargo, we will perform the pilgrimage," a Libyan youth shouted to reporters as he waved his green Libyan flag.

None in the party, however, would explain how their more than 300 camels had made it the 700 kilometres from the Libyan border to Cairo in just two days. Strong camels can cover just 50 kilometres a day.

Suggestions they had taken advantage of truck or train transport were brushed aside. Still, many insisted they made the long trek inside Libya by camel to the Egyptian border.

A statement issued by the group said that six old men had died along the way. The travellers estimated that some 50 camels had died or become too weak and had to be abandoned.

The U.N. Security Council imposed sanctions on Libya in April 1992 to try to force it to turn over two Libyans wanted in connection with the Pan Am bombing, which took 270 lives.

Ex-Nazi wanted in Italy arrested in Argentina

ROME (R) — Argentine police have arrested former German Nazi SS Captain Erich Priebke, who is wanted in connection with the worst war crime committed in Italy, the Italian interior ministry said on Tuesday.

A ministry official said the arrest took place in the southern Andean resort of San Carlos di Bariloche, where Mr. Priebke, 81, had lived peacefully for 46 years until he was traced to the town by the U.S. television network ABC.

His arrest followed the issue on Monday of a warrant by an Italian military prosecutor who wants to try him in connection with the reprisal killings in March 1944 of 335 Italians at the Ardeatine Caves near Rome.

The Italian justice ministry said earlier it had begun formal proceedings for Mr. Priebke's extradition. An interior ministry statement said two senior Italian Interpol officers had been dispatched to Argentina.

The Italian news agency ANSA, in a report from Buenos Aires, quoted Argentine Federal Judge Leonidas Molde as saying Mr. Priebke had been granted house arrest on medical grounds.

"I have arranged for the Italian authorities to be informed that the arrest has taken place. They now have 45 days to present documents formally requesting extradition," Mr. Molde said.

Mr. Priebke, who lived in Bariloche without concealing his identity, says he fled Italy in 1948 with the help of the Vatican, a claim rejected by a leading Roman Catholic historian.

He acknowledged in an ABC interview last week that he had been involved in the Ardeatine killings but said he regretted his part and had been following orders.

The massacre, directed by SS Lieutenant-Colonel Herbert Kappler, was carried out in reprisal for an Italian partisan bomb attack in which 33

The sanctions, tightened in December 1993, ban the sale of arms and oil equipment to Libya and prohibit flights in and out of the country. Although air travel for religious purposes is specifically exempt, Libya has refused to ask the U.N. for a waiver for its pilgrims.

"How can we ask for permission for pilgrimage from Christians?" Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi protested in a weekend speech in the Libyan capital Tripoli.

Col. Qadhafi also chastised Saudi Arabia for abiding by the Security Council sanctions, adding: "The holy Islamic shrine and the tomb of the Holy Messenger cannot be subject to decision by America, Britain and France."

Last year, several hundred Libyans travelled to worship at the Dome of the Rock and Al Aqsa Mosques in Jerusalem as a protest for what they said was their inability to reach the shrines at Mecca and Medina in Saudi Arabia.

At the pyramids, Libyans swathed in white woolen robes squatted near a huge tent shading them from the sun. While others watched over the camels.

Some waved posters for reporters of a smiling Qadhafi. Men chanted, and women ululated.

The pilgrims, who said they were mainly desert bedouin families and traders, said the caravan would now journey to the Egyptian town of Nuweiba on the Red Sea to catch ferries to Saudi Arabia.

"To leave for Saudi Arabia

is expensive, and we do not have enough dollars," said Karima, a 45-year-old widow who is travelling with two sons and daughters.

Karima, dressed in a white silk robe and head scarf, said she had been travelling for the past month and complained that her camel was ill.

"I feel very sorry for him, he is sick and tired," she said of the tawny beast.

Omar Al Mahdi said he, too, had travelled a month to the village of Umm Saad on the Libyan side of the border. There several caravans joined up and crossed into Egypt at Sallout on Saturday.

"We rode day and night, only eating on camelback," he said. "We only stopped to water the camels."

The travellers carried traditional desert food — dates, corn and wheat, water, sugar and tea, which indispensable to Libyans. Villagers along the way sold them milk, they said.

Israelis to return Jericho sites to Palestinians

Jericho, occupied West Bank (AP) — Palestinian officials on Tuesday toured three archaeological sites coming under their control, including a seventh century synagogue that is a rallying point for opponents of the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) autonomy accord.

But an Israeli general who met with PLO officials said that the "Peace upon Israel" synagogue would remain under Israel's auspices for religious affairs.

Israel is withdrawing from the West Bank town of Jericho and the Gaza Strip as part of an agreement negotiated in Cairo to introduce limited Palestinian self-rule.

On Tuesday, Israel's parks authority took PLO officials to the sites, including the synagogue, although the official handover will be later this week when the PLO takes over the entire area.

Over the past week hundreds of Jewish settlers have camped out at the synagogue only to be dragged away by troops who declared the site a closed military area to avoid friction during the sensitive days of the transfer of power.

Brigadier General Gadi Zohar, head of the West Bank military government, said Tuesday that details on control of the synagogue would be worked out between Israelis

and the PLO in the next few days since Israel will retain some responsibilities.

"According to the Cairo agreement, the synagogue is going to be under the auspices of the Israeli authorities for religious affairs," Mr. Zohar said.

But he added: "As far as we know, there are not going to be Israeli soldiers in this area."

A Jewish seminary at the site is expected to continue operating after the Palestinians have taken control," Mr. Zohar said.

"I believe it was assured by the Palestinians that they will permit free access to this place and free religious worship so I don't think it will be closed," he said.

What's actually on the site is a two-storey building put up by an Arab family in past years over a mosaic floor that is the only remains of the synagogue. The seminary operates on the second floor.

Officials of the parks authority toured the three sites Monday, collecting files, closing accounts and saying farewell to Palestinian employees.

At the main dig — Tel Jericho, one of the world's most ancient archaeological sites, dating back some 10,000 years — parks authority employees loaded a pickup truck with green plastic bags containing documents.

Parks authority spokesman

Eyal Mitrani said he left the dig, which contains remains from some 23 cities, with mixed feelings.

"But it's a small price to pay for peace," Mr. Mitrani said.

Palestinian employee Saher Gruf, 48, who has been running the cash register since immediately after the 1967 Mideast war, when Israel occupied the area, said he had mixed feelings about the change.

"I don't know whether I'll still have a job tomorrow," he said.

The third site to be handed over is Hisham's Palace, dating back to the early Islamic period in the seventh century A.D.

Palestinian businessmen were hopeful that the tourists would keep coming.

Khaled Abdul Razek, who owns the Mount of Temptation restaurant next to the dig, said he has been given assurance by Israeli tour operators that they would keep sending visitors to Jericho.

Mr. Abdul Razek said tourists were Jericho's lifeline.

"I hope the Palestinian authority will not miss this opportunity," he said, speaking in his elegant restaurant paved with marble floors and decorated with a water fountain.

The entrance to the restaurant was draped with three flags — Palestinian, American and Israeli.

Slayer of 33 executed by injection

JOLIET, Illinois (Agencies) — Serial killer John Wayne Gacy was executed by lethal injection early Tuesday at Stateville correctional centre, 14 years after he was convicted of raping, torturing and murdering 33 teenagers and youths.

Hours earlier, the U.S. Supreme Court turned down a last-minute appeal in which his lawyers argued that the

method of execution was unconstitutional and that Gacy was mentally incompetent and out of town during 16 of the murders.

Corrections department official Howard A. Peters said that Gacy was declared dead at 12:58 a.m. (05:58 GMT).

Mr. Gacy was very cooperative throughout the process, which took 18 minutes, Mr.

Peters said.

A problem in the flow of lethal chemicals into Gacy's body, however, delayed the execution, he added. "There was jelling or a clogging in the line... we had to rerun another tubing."

Gacy asked to meet with relatives and a priest in his final day, and had a last meal of fried chicken.

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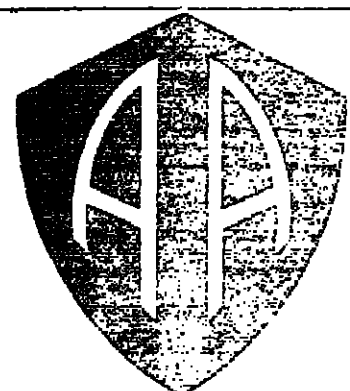
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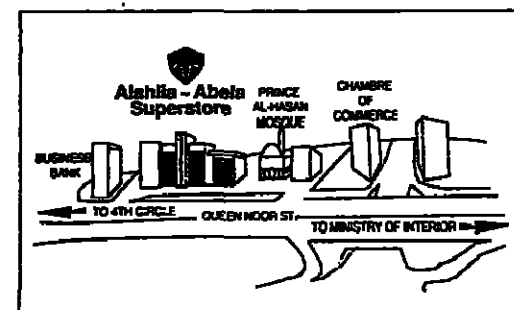
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NEWS IN BRIEF

Majali meets EU official

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali on Tuesday received at the Prime Ministry the director of the joint researches centre of the European Union (EU). Dr. Majali and the European official discussed means of enhancing cooperation between Jordan and the E.U., particularly in the area of environment.

'Israel, Morocco to open interests sections'

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel and Morocco are to open interests sections in Rabat and Tel Aviv, an Israeli minister said. The minister, who asked not to be named, said the two sides had agreed and that offices could open in the next two or three weeks. Israel Radio, meanwhile, said Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres could travel to Morocco next week. But the premier's spokesman, Gad Ben Ari, denied the report. The two leaders travelled to Rabat in September to thank King Hassan II for his role in the Middle East peace process, after the signing in Washington of the Israeli-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) autonomy accord. Israel and Morocco do not have diplomatic relations, but a delegation of Moroccan businessmen has visited the Jewish state.

Algerian arrested in France with guns

PARIS (AFP) — French customs officials arrested an Algerian man in possession of a cache of weapons and explosives that he allegedly planned to pass on to Islamic fundamentalists in his country, sources said. Abdul Hakim Boutrif, 34, was stopped at toll booth Friday in Meurthe-et-Moselle in northeastern France after entering the country from Germany, the sources said. He was transferred to Paris where he was held for questioning by anti-terrorist police. He was to appear before the Paris prosecutor's office Thursday. In Mr. Boutrif's car customs officers found 129 sticks of explosives, 99 detonators, 5,000 rounds of ammunition, three automatic pistols, one assault rifle, four sets of night vision goggles, three scanners and 14 transmitter-receivers. Police said Mr. Boutrif, who is married and lives in a Paris suburb, was making his second trip to Algeria after having loaded up his car with weapons in Germany. He was planning to drive down through France, Spain and Morocco to Algeria, apparently to deliver the cache to Islamic fundamentalists, the police said.

Turkish company claims \$173m from Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — The Bayindir Construction Company of Turkey has claimed \$173 million compensation for the cancellation of a motorway contract by the Pakistan government, the senate was told here Tuesday. Minister for Labour and Manpower Akbar Lasi said the "wasteful" project had been shelved to save billions of rupees. The decision had caused no damage to the friendly relations between Pakistan and Turkey, the minister said, adding that the government was trying to reach an out-of-court settlement. He assured the Senate the matter would be resolved amicably. Bayindir was awarded the contract by the government of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, who resigned in July last year. A caretaker administration, which replaced Mr. Sharif, shelved the project. This decision was endorsed after Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto assumed office in October.

Egyptian lawyer dies in custody

CAIRO (R) — An Egyptian lawyer close to the Muslim fundamentalist movement has died in custody and the Egyptian Bar Association said he was tortured to death. Police took the lawyer, Abdul Harith Madani, 32, from his Cairo office on April 26 and a police station told his family to collect his body last Friday, the Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights (EOHR) said in a statement. The Bar Association said Madani died after state security investigators in the Cairo suburb of Giza gave him electric shocks, burnt his body and whipped him. "The torture to which he was subjected was an extremely barbaric crime and his murder, one week after he was detained, was a premeditated murder," it said in a statement. The human rights organisation said: "The EOHR fears that this death could have been due to the effects of torture subsequent to his arrest, especially as EOHR's efforts to find out his place of detention and his fate were unsuccessful." It said that the organisation had tried to obtain a coroner's report on Madani's death. "The EOHR representative was surprised to find a security cordon had been placed around the morgue, preventing access to the body," it added.

Iran mines border to deter rebel attacks

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran has sown mines in sensitive regions along its western border with Iraq to deter rebel attacks, the official Iranian news agency IRNA reported Tuesday. So far 226 border routes have been sealed off with mines to stop the flow of "saboteurs and armed groups," IRNA said, quoting a military official. According to Iranian authorities, most cross-border attacks are launched by Iraq-based rebels of the Mujaheddin-e-Khalq — the main armed Iranian opposition group — and radical Kurdish factions from Iranian Kurdistan. An interior ministry official said the arrest was carried out in the southern Andean resort of San Carlos de Bariloche, where Mr. Priebke has lived for 46 years without concealing his identity since he fled Italy in 1948. He was traced to the town last week by the U.S. television network ABC and acknowledged in an interview that he had been involved in the Argentine killings. Italian military prosecutors on Monday issued a warrant for his arrest. The Argentine massacre was carried out in reprisal for an Italian partisan bomb attack which killed 33 German soldiers.

Malaysia hangs 3 drug traffickers

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — Malaysia on Tuesday hanged three people for drugs trafficking after their appeals for clemency were rejected by the Supreme Court last year, the prison department said. The three, who had been sentenced to death by the high court three years ago, were hanged at a prison in Kajang, 37 kilometres from here, the department said in a statement to the Bernama news agency. The department refused to publish their names, Bernama said. One of them, a 47-year-old, was hanged for trafficking in 1.757 kilograms of cannabis, while another, aged 26, was executed for trafficking 22.91 grammes of heroin. The third, a 29-year-old, was hanged for peddling in 831.2 grammes of heroin. The department said the three persons had exhausted all avenues of appeal available in the legal process by early January and March last year after being convicted separately on Sept. 22, 1990, Jan. 18, 1991 and March 6, 1991. A mandatory death sentence is imposed on anyone found in possession of 15 grammes or more of heroin, 200 grammes of cannabis or a kilo of opium and who is deemed a drug trafficker under Malaysia's tough anti-drug law. Some 100 people, at least 30 of them foreigners, have been hanged since the mandatory death penalty for trafficking was introduced in 1981.

Israeli police storm cult stronghold

TEL AVIV (AP) — Police stormed an armed stronghold in suburban Tel Aviv before dawn on Tuesday and arrested a charismatic cult leader after a heated gun battle. A few followers of Rabbi Uzi Meshulam were still holed up in the house in the town of Yehud, Israel Radio said. But Police Minister Moshe Shahal told the radio that Rabbi Meshulam and 27 followers were in custody. A man and a woman were injured, Israel Radio said. Police shot the man, a follower of Rabbi Meshulam, when he opened fire on a police helicopter, the radio said. It did not say what condition the wounded were in. Witnesses said that an extended gun battle included rounds of automatic fire. Police arrested Rabbi Meshulam, although he tried to disguise himself by wearing a sheet and a false moustache, the radio said.

Beirut cabinet crisis deepens

BEIRUT (R) — A political crisis sparked by a row over planned changes in Lebanon's cabinet threw the survival of Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri's 19-month-old government into doubt on Tuesday.

But political sources said there was no question at this point of Mr. Hariri leaving office and he was expected to head any new government that emerged from the crisis.

However, the uncertainty over the government's future hit Beirut's foreign exchange market, forcing the central bank to sell millions of U.S. dollars for the first time in months, dealers said.

They said the central bank sold an estimated \$30 million on Monday and \$35 million on Tuesday to hold the Lebanese pound at 1,689.50 to the dollar (see page 7).

Political sources said the dispute between Mr. Hariri and President Elias Hrawi and Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri over the appointment of new ministers was the tip of the iceberg.

They said it brought out discontent with the performance of the government and resulted in discussions about changing rather than reshuffling it.

A source close to Mr. Hrawi said Mr. Hrawi and Mr. Berri wanted a new government, led by Mr. Hariri.

"The two leaders believe a reshuffle will not be enough to improve the performance of the government," the source told Reuters. "What they want is a new government and there would be no problem if it was headed by Hariri."

A Hariri aide also said he would no longer be satisfied with a limited reshuffle. "A new government is what he wants," the aide said.

The crisis, which has paralysed government activities for three days, surfaced on Sunday when Mr. Hariri cancelled all appointments and confined himself to his home.

The sources said the dispute had much to do with the performance of the government and its plans to reconstruct and develop the country.

They said Mr. Hrawi and Mr. Berri were unhappy with Mr. Hariri's running of the government since his appointment in October 1992 and with its programme to rebuild Lebanon from the ruins of the 1975-90 civil war.

The two leaders privately accused Mr. Hariri of appointing close aides to key government posts. Many Lebanese also accuse him of failing to fulfil promises of rapid reconstruction and economic recovery.

Mr. Hariri blames the snags on the intervention of his two rivals in the reconstruction projects "for narrow interests," the sources said.

Mr. Hariri remained at his residence on Tuesday after going on strike at the weekend when Mr. Hrawi and Mr. Berri blocked his proposals for limited changes in the government.

The three leaders agreed last week at a meeting in Syria, the main power broker in Lebanon, to strengthen Christian representation in the cabinet.

But Mr. Hrawi and Mr. Berri rejected the names Mr. Hariri suggested, and sources close to Mr. Hariri said he felt trapped.

Mediators, led by Deputy Prime Minister Michel Al Murr and Health Minister Marwan Hamadeh, shuttled between the three rivals seeking a compromise.

The independent Al Nahar newspaper said Syrian officials were expected to intervene and resolve the dispute.

One of the biggest achievements of Mr. Hariri's government has been the steady strengthening of the Lebanese pound, which recorded its record low of 2,800 to the dollar before he came to power in October 1992.

Israeli air attacks kill two in Lebanon

NAAMEH, Lebanon (Agencies) — Israeli warplanes blasted a Palestinian camp in hills near Beirut on Tuesday, killing two people and injuring four others including a woman, police said.

The planes fired around 15 missiles in six waves at a base of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) in Naameh, 15 kilometres south of the capital.

Two people were killed in the raids and four others, including a PFLP-GC fighter and a Lebanese woman, were injured, police said, adding that four warplanes took part in the attacks while a fifth served as cover.

The Palestinian group said the planes targeted an administrative centre, a clinic and a tunnel. But it was not clear if the aircraft hit their targets.

In Israel, an army spokesman said the raid homed in on a sector "completely controlled" by the PFLP-GC. The warplanes had returned safely to base after scoring hits.

But journalists said the targets were located just 200 metres from civilian homes and a school, from where pupils scurried home for cover.

The warplanes, which broke the sound barrier over Beirut, kept up their attacks for an hour after the initial strike, state-run Tele Liban reported.

Israeli fighters also buzzed the port city of Sidon, further south, Palestinian refugee camps on the outskirts and the nearby Iqlim Al Tufah ridge where guerrillas are entrenched.

Lebanese army soldiers fired anti-aircraft guns from positions near Naameh without hitting the planes, while Syrian troops stationed four kilometres away went on alert, correspondents said.

At least four rockets were fired in the first strike, and two in the second raid an hour later by another two planes, police said.

"They came from over the sea, then there was the impact," said Saeed Daher, an elderly Palestinian squatter in one of the buildings near the bases.

He was at his front porch when the attack occurred.

"All of a sudden, rockets started falling, then roaring of the planes leaving the area," said Mr. Daher.

"We fled indoors as shrapnel started landing around us," he

said, holding a piece of ordinance the size of a golf ball in his hand.

Plumes of white and black smoke rose from one of the hills, next to the cement block entrance of an underground tunnel used as a base for the PFLP-GC. It could not be determined from a distance what continued to burn outside the tunnel three hours after the first raid.

Guerrillas banned reporters and photographers from approaching the area, which contained two other underground tunnels and military hardware. Guerrillas had taken refuge in nearby factories and the area was completely deserted.

Mounira Jihad Salameh, suffered an arm wound. The three-year-old was among the scores of civilians living in shacks near the entrance to the targeted tunnel.

Salameh, blood visible on her right arm, was carried down to an ambulance by her father, while others fled the hill to safer areas near the coast. They spent the rest of the day standing on the streets, afraid to return to their homes.

Shortly after the first rockets hit, explosions jolted the area, blasts could be heard in the capital Beirut, 16 kilometres to the north.

Police said the blasts were caused by timer-activated devices dropped by the planes and apparently set to explode as guerrillas inspected the damage and rescued comrades.

In Israel, an army spokesman said the planes safely returned to base after scoring accurate hits on PFLP-GC "base for training and launching point for attacks on the security zone." Israel occupies the so-called "security zone" in southern Lebanon to guard against guerrilla infiltration into Israel.

"The raids will not affect us," said a defiant PFLP-GC official at the scene. "They're just irritants," said the official, who goes by the nom-de-guerre Abu Khalil.

Tuesday's raids brought to 12 Israel's air strikes into Lebanon this year and to four on the hills of Naameh.

Seven people were killed in the previous air attacks. Four PFLP-GC guerrillas died in two strikes on Naameh in January.

The PFLP-GC is led by former Syrian army Captain Ahmad Jibril.



MAJALI MEETS QOURIEA: Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali on Tuesday receives at the Prime Ministry head of the Economic Department of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Ahmad Qouriea. The meeting, which was attended by Minister of State for the Prime Ministry Affairs and Minister of Information Jawad Al Anani and Palestinian Ambassador Al Tayyeb Abdul Rahim reviewed Jordanian-Palestinian economic ties and means of promoting them (Petra photo)

Palestinians expect police to enter Jericho today

By Mariam M. Shabin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

JERICHO — The nearly 800 members of the Palestinian National Security Forces (PNSF) waiting at the King Hussein Bridge to enter Jericho are expected to cross the Jordan River in the next 48 hours, the head of the Palestinian-Israeli liaison committee for administrative affairs told reporters at a press conference here Tuesday.

"We expect the Palestinian police to enter Jericho in the next two days," said Jamil Tarifi, Palestinian head of the committee.

Mr. Tarifi had said that the committee had planned to take over administrative offices, still controlled by Israelis, on Tuesday.

"Today our administrative heads toured the offices, hospitals and all other officers concerned with administrative affairs, but they will not be turned over to our administrative heads until the police come in to protect these offices," said Mr. Tarifi, who gave a press conference with his Israeli counterpart Brigadier-General Gadi Zohar.

Local Palestinians already run most of the towns administrative affairs, according to Mr. Tarifi. "Only the bosses are Israelis. The people who run the daily affairs are Palestinians. There will be no problem in the take-over."

Lloyds expected

(Continued from page 1)

plementing the proposal which was made by the Kingdom in January.

Jordan had earlier linked its participation in the peace talks with the lifting of the siege on Aqaba which many officials described as pressure on Jordan to force it into entering a separate peace accord with Israel.

Informed sources say the U.S. Congress, which "has not yet forgiven" the Kingdom for its opposition to the Gulf war coalition that drove Iraq out of Kuwait in 1991 and some U.S. security agencies which "do not trust Jordan" have been behind the delay in lifting the siege on Aqaba.

Information Minister Jawad Al Anani confirmed Tuesday that the Jordanian government has received confirmation from the concerned American authorities that Washington had approved the Jordanian proposal.

He said the next steps were to reach a final agreement with Lloyds Register to determine the methods of observing cargo entering Aqaba. This might be achieved with in the coming three weeks, he said.

Dr. Anani said that the representative of Lloyds Register would not be inspecting ships, but will be monitoring incoming cargo when they are opened at the port to make sure that they conform to the cargo manifests.

Palestinian police enter Gaza

(Continued from page 1)

ex-guerrillas were guarding the Israeli-abandoned offices of the education department and the building used as a military court by Israel.

The new policemen in the olive-green uniform of the PLA stepped off five Egyptian buses, lined up and marched into a processing area on the Israeli-held side of the Rafah crossing.

An Israeli military spokesman said the first contingent of

As Mr. Tarifi and Gen. Zohar gave their joint press statements, the Israel flag was taken down from Jericho civil administration building and two Palestinian flags were put up in their place. But Israeli soldiers still manned the security outposts on all administrative buildings.

Three teams of Palestinian and Israeli administrative experts were touring all the office buildings that will be taken over by administrators who were shown keys and box files. But even administrative concerns of civilian life will be "overlapping," said Gen. Zohar. "Today is the first day of overlapping administration between the Israeli civil administration and the Palestinian representatives," said Gen. Zohar.

"This overlapping will continue until the date for a full take over by Palestinian administrators has been set," he added. But "coordination and cooperation" between Palestinian and Israeli authorities would continue even after a transfer of power to Palestinians, he said.

The Israeli authorities were willing to continue supplying the Jericho hospital with all necessary equipment for three months if the Palestinians wished, the officer told journalists. But much depended on the composition of the Palestinian national authority, the Palestinian government which will

Jordan, PLO begin key talks

(Continued from page 1)

strategy in the talks with the PLO was expected to be discussed and finalised.

Speaking after the meeting, Dr. Anani would only say that "all economic issues of common concern were discussed" during the session with the PLO and that the discussions would continue on Wednesday.

Ahmad Qouriea, head of the economic department of the PLO, who led the Palestinian side to the talks, said the meeting was "comprehensive and extensive" and covered "all aspects of the Jordanian-Palestinian economic relationship."

"The Jordanian-Palestinian accord (of Jan. 7) is the basis of the relationship," he told Al Ra'i and the Jordan Times.

Asked whether the PLO was seeking any changes in the agreement in view of the Israel-PLO accord, Mr. Qouriea said: "Changes if any will be in favour of the Jordanian-Palestinian accord."

He did not elaborate. However, he stressed, any possible changes in the accord will mean detailing the agreement's provisions. There will be no changes in the basis and principles of the agreement.

"Certain joint committees will be activated," he added. "We discussed all issues such as banking, currency, trade, and customs," he said. "These are issues that should be clarified to sustain the unique, brotherly relation between Jordan and Palestine."

Asked whether the Israel-PLO accord had narrowed the scope for Jordanian-Palestinian cooperation, Mr. Qouriea said: "On the contrary, I believe that the agreement with Israel has helped implement the Jordanian-Palestinian accord."

"It is true that the (Israel-PLO) accord did not give us all that we were seeking, but it gave us some of what we sought," said Mr. Qouriea.

"The door is not closed for the rest of our rights, which will be restored gradually..."

Mr. Qouriea said: "We will soon witness Palestinian-Arab agreements. We are part of the Arab World and a permanent member of the Arab League and we have a strategic Arab depth which supports our position."

administer Jericho and Gaza. "We are awaiting the names of the Palestinian national authority and then the next step can be taken," said Mr. Tarifi.

Palestinians in Jericho continued to prepare for the Palestinian takeover. Welcoming banners decorated the town which is home to some 17,000 Palestinians.

"Last week South Africa, this week Jericho," read one banner. "Do not take down a single tree," read another banner urging the new authorities to preserve Jericho's natural resources and banana plantations.

But local Jericho residents were both excited and fearful of the change that will accompany the entry of the PNSF. "This will be a new era for us," said Sumalya Abu Zibdeh. "My husband used to work in Israel. Now he is not allowed to work there any more. I hope the Palestinian authorities will provide work for our men."

Telephone lines to Jericho were intermittently disturbed Monday and Tuesday, creating panic among locals who feared that all communications between them and the rest of the West Bank would be cut off once the Palestinian self-rule began.

Palestinian rule in Jericho and Gaza is seen by West Bank Palestinians as a litmus test for how successful Palestinian rule over other parts of the occupied territories taken over by Palestinian authorities will be.

COLUMN

Hillary Clinton lashes out at U.S. press

WASHINGTON (AFP) — First lady Hillary Clinton lashed out at U.S. reporters, charging that the media hype over latest barrage of allegations about the first couple was biased and unfounded. "If the press becomes the handmaiden of the political right, which it is becoming — from the so-called liberal press all the way to the attack dogs of the right wing — then you can't expect people to have any trust in what they read or see," she said in a Vanity Fair interview. "I get infuriated when people print lies and uncorroborated accusations against either me or my husband," she told the monthly magazine. Mrs. Clinton vehemently denied rumours that she was a lesbian or that she had had an affair with White House official Vince Foster, a friend and colleague who committed suicide last year. "That's one of the sad lies," she said, fighting back tears. The first lady was interviewed in April, before a former Arkansas state employee filed a sexual harassment suit against President Bill Clinton. Paula Jones has accused Mr. Clinton of violating her civil rights by making sexual advances to her during a conference when he was governor in 1991. Hillary Clinton charged that her critics were politically and financially motivated, particularly legislators who she said profited from unfounded allegations which are hard to disprove. She also said she wished she had never invested in the failed Whitewater land deal, which has brought charges of financial misdealings against the Clintons. "I think a lot of this is a little disingenuous. People keep asking questions that we keep answering. They just don't like the answers. If they don't want to believe that we lost money in Whitewater, that's their choice but it doesn't change the truth," she said.

Hillary's calling so Clinton interrupts rally

PROVIDENCE, RI (R) — President Bill Clinton interrupted a flurry of handshaking at an airport rally Monday to take a telephone call from his wife Hillary in South Africa. The first lady is in South Africa to attend the inauguration of Nelson Mandela as that country's first black president. "She said it's amazing. The place is just cracking with energy," Mr. Clinton told reporters after using a telephone in his limousine to speak long-distance with the first lady. His side of the conversation took place on the tarmac of the T.F. Green Airport, where Mr. Clinton addressed a rally before taking part in a televised town meeting. Mrs. Clinton and Vice President Gore led the U.S. delegation to Mr. Mandela's inauguration.

Mandela snubs estranged wife

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (AP) — Nelson Mandela snubbed his estranged wife, Winnie, during the first sitting of the multiracial parliament Monday, and the personal divide between them seemed as wide as ever. Moments after Mr. Mandela was chosen as president, he refused to acknowledge Mrs. Mandela when she sat briefly beside him to nominate a fellow women's rights activist, Frene Ginwala, as the country's first woman parliament speaker. When Mrs. Mandela got up to announce the nomination, she was required to walk over to where her husband was seated on a brown leather bench. Sitting less than an arm's length apart, he never looked at her. Mr. Mandela stared straight ahead as the woman once known as "mother of the nation" read out Mrs. Ginwala's name, then returned to her seat. Mr. Mandela's reaction showed the extent of his aloofness toward Mrs. Mandela since their separation in 1992. She was convicted a year earlier on kidnapping charges and there were media reports that she had an extramarital affair. Wearing a black suit with a green blouse, Mrs. Mandela was seated three rows behind her husband during the solemn swearing in ceremony in the colonial parliament building. She chatted with African National Congress colleague Zola Skweyiya, seated beside her, as the 400 lawmakers took the oath in batches of ten.